OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT HANDBOOK

Rules, Regulations and Eligibility

Saturday, 12 December 2026

Grand Rally Pickleball, Shah Alam

Please read this handbook in full before you register and pay.

1. Tournament Philosophy

FAIR PLAY. REAL COMPETITION.

- 🏆 **Novice. ONE TITLE, THEN LEVEL UP.**
  Already a Novice champion? Congratulations! It's time to take the next step and challenge yourself at Intermediate level.
- ⚖️ **A FAIR SHOT FOR EVERYONE.**
  Novice is a division for players still chasing their first championship title. We want to preserve that opportunity and give everyone a fair chance to compete on equal footing.
- 🔍 **TRANSPARENCY & ACCOUNTABILITY.**
  A Watch List will be published **2 days before the tournament** to help identify potential duplicate accounts and questionable entries, keeping the competition as fair as possible.

OUR PRINCIPLE IS SIMPLE: Meaningful divisions. Competitive matches. Fair opportunities.
We're here to celebrate genuine competition, respect the game, and make every title worth earning.

2. Tournament Overview

Event	Pickle Grand Slam 2026
Date	Saturday, 12 December 2026
Venue	Grand Rally Pickleball, Shah Alam
Categories	Men's Doubles and Mixed Doubles, each in two DUPR levels (see Section 3)
Teams per Category	32 teams
Minimum to Proceed	16 registered teams per category
Schedule	Men's Doubles 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM | Mixed Doubles 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM
Registration Fee	RM250 per team (RM220 if register before 20 November 2026)

3. Categories and DUPR Requirements

Category	Maximum DUPR	Teams
Men's Doubles ≤ 2.8 Novice	2.800	32
Mixed Doubles ≤ 2.8 Novice	2.800	32
Men's Doubles ≤ 3.3 Intermediate	3.300	32
Mixed Doubles ≤ 3.3 Intermediate	3.300	32

- The maximum eligible DUPR rating for the ≤ 2.800 categories is **2.800**. For the ≤ 3.300 categories it is **3.300**.
- Both players in a team must meet the rating limit of the category.
- NR (No Rating) players are not eligible in any category.
- A player may register in more than one category, as long as the player is eligible for each one.

4. Podium Restriction Rules

READ BEFORE YOU REGISTER

Your DUPR rating is not the only thing that decides your category. Your podium history on SportsSync and Baseline counts as well. Please check both before you pay.

4.1 What Counts

- Only podium results officially recorded on SportsSync or Baseline at the time of eligibility verification will be counted.
- The period reviewed runs from January 2026 up to the registration date.
- Results from other platforms, including Reclub and SWP, will not be counted or reviewed.

4.2 What Is Excluded

- Company events.
- Club internal tournaments.
- Mini Tour events with fewer than 12 participating teams, or with a cash prize pool below RM800.

4.3 Eligibility by Podium Result

The tournament level below means the DUPR limit of the category where the podium was earned. Where a combined rating applies, it is the two players' ratings added together.

Podium Result on SportsSync / Baseline	Novice (≤ 2.800)	Intermediate (≤ 3.300)
Gold (champion), tournament below 2.8 (combined below 5.60)	**Not eligible**	**Eligible**
Gold (champion), tournament 2.8 or above (combined 5.60 or above)	**Not eligible**	**Not eligible**
Silver or bronze, tournament below 2.8 (combined below 5.6)	**Eligible, capped at 3 per team**	**Not counted**
Silver or bronze, tournament **above** 2.8 (combined above 5.60)	**Not eligible**	**Eligible, capped at 3 per team**
Reclub podium of any kind	**Not counted**	**Not counted**

4.4 The Cap of 3 Podiums per Team

Players with silver or bronze finishes remain eligible, but the number of these podiums is limited. The cap is counted per team, which means the podiums of both players are added together. A team with more than 3 qualifying silver or bronze podiums in total is not eligible.

4.5 Enforcement

If a player is found to have broken these restrictions, the Organiser or Tournament Director may **either move the team to a higher category or disqualify the team immediately.**

5. Eligibility Examples

The table below shows how the rules apply in common situations. If your case is not covered here, please contact the Tournament Director before paying.

Situation	Novice (≤ 2.800)	Intermediate (≤ 3.300)	Reason
Player has 10 Reclub podiums and no podiums on SportsSync or Baseline.	**Eligible**	**Eligible**	Reclub results are not counted.
Team AB. Player A: DUPR 2.800, 1 silver and 1 bronze at tournaments below 2.80. Player B: DUPR 2.567, no podiums.	**Eligible**	**Eligible**	Both ratings are within 2.800. The team has 2 podiums, under the cap of 3.
Player B: DUPR 2.567, 1 gold at a tournament below 2.80 (combined below 5.60).	**Not eligible**	**Eligible**	A champion cannot enter Novice, but a champion of a 2.8 or equivalent category may enter Intermediate.
Player A: DUPR 2.75, 2 silvers at tournaments above 3.0 (combined above 6.00).	**Not eligible**	**Eligible**	Podiums at that level rule out Novice. Intermediate is open.
Player with a gold at a tournament rated 3.00 or above (combined 6.00 or above).	**Not eligible**	**Not eligible**	Champions at this level are outside both categories.
Player with no DUPR rating (NR).	**Not eligible**	**Not eligible**	NR players cannot register.
Player with DUPR 2.78 and suspected DUPR manipulation.	**Moved to Intermediate**	**Eligible**	The team is moved to the 3.300 category after review.
Player with any podiums at a Mini Tour event of below 12 teams or cash pool below RM800	**Eligible**	**Eligible**	Mini Tour events under 12 teams and/or cash pool below RM800 are excluded.

6. DUPR Integrity, Screening and Fair Play

6.1 Before You Pay

- Players must check and confirm their own eligibility before payment.
- The main reference for eligibility is the official DUPR rating during registration and verification, up to full payment after approval.

6.2 Screening and Watch List

- The Tournament Director may review up to 6 months of DUPR movement and match history.
- A Watch List will be released 2 days before the tournament, on 09 December 2026, for players to help identify double accounts and unfair entries.

6.3 Reporting Concerns and Dispute Deadline

- Suspected manipulation, unusual rating movement, or competitive misrepresentation may be reported to the Tournament Director, Venn (01112556826), with supporting proof.
- A report does not automatically lead to disqualification. Each case is reviewed on its evidence.
- All disputes, protests, and complaints regarding DUPR eligibility must be submitted before 12:00am on 11 December 2026.

- After that time, no further complaints, objections, or eligibility disputes will be entertained, except in exceptional circumstances at the Organiser's discretion.
- Once the dispute period closes, player eligibility and the tournament draw are considered final.
- The dispute deadline does not prevent the Organiser from taking action if new evidence of DUPR manipulation, fraud, or eligibility violations is discovered after the deadline.

6.4 Consequences

- DUPR manipulation, or the use of another account, will result in disqualification with no refund.
- A team that registers in the 2.800 category with a player whose rating is suspected of manipulation (for example, a player at 2.78) will be moved to the 3.300 category.
- Where false information, manipulation, or competitive misrepresentation is reasonably identified, the Organiser may reject the entry, reassign the category, or disqualify without refund.
- The Tournament Director's decision is final.

7. Registration and Payment Policy

7.1 Registration Fee

- RM250 per team.
- RM220 per team if register **before 20 November 2026.**

7.2 Payment Policy

- Payment is strictly not refundable.
- No cancellation is permitted after payment.
- A refund applies only if the event is officially cancelled by the Organiser, or if the event is postponed and the team chooses a refund (see Section 13.2).

7.3 Player Replacement

- A player who cannot compete may be replaced before 08 December 2026, 6:00 PM.
- The replacement must meet all eligibility and rating requirements of the category entered, and the change must be approved by the Tournament Director.
- In unforeseen situations, the Tournament Director and Organiser will decide, and their ruling is final.

8. Prize Structure

Novice Placement	Cash Prize	Medal	Sponsored Product
1st Place	RM1,000	Yes	Worth RM755
2nd Place	RM600	Yes	Worth RM655
3rd Place	RM400	Yes	Worth RM655

Intermediate Placement	Cash Prize	Medal	Sponsored Product
1st Place	RM1,200	Yes	Worth RM755
2nd Place	RM600	Yes	Worth RM655
3rd Place	RM400	Yes	Worth RM655

- Prizes are awarded per category.
- Cash prizes are subject to the number of registered and confirmed participating teams in each category.
- If the registration target for a category is not met, the Organiser reserves the right to adjust the cash prize accordingly.
- Any prize adjustments will be communicated to participants by the Organiser.
- Each category needs a minimum of 16 registered teams for the tournament to proceed.

8.1 Lucky Draw

- A lucky draw session will be held on event day.
- Lucky draw prizes are provided by our prestige sponsors. They are separate from the cash prizes, medals, and sponsored products awarded to podium finishers.
- The prize list, timing and how to take part will be announced closer to the event.

9. Tournament Structure and Scoring Format

9.1 Group Stage

- Each category has 32 teams, divided into 4 groups of 8.
- Round robin format, so each team plays 7 matches.
- Rally scoring to 13 points (first to 13 wins).
- No deuce. Sudden death applies at 12 all.
- No switching of sides.
- No timeouts.
- The top 2 teams from each group advance to the Knockout Stage.
- **The format may be adjusted based on participation level.**

9.2 Tie Breaking (Group Stage)

Teams level on wins are ranked in this order:

Priority	Criteria
1st	Head-to-head result
2nd	Point differential
3rd	Total points scored

9.3 Quarterfinals

- Rally scoring to 15 points (first to 15 wins).
- Serve to win rule applies at 14 all (win by 1 point).
- No switching of sides.
- No timeouts.

9.4 Semifinals, 3rd Place Match and Finals

- Rally scoring to 21 points (first to 21 wins).
- Serve to win rule applies at 20 all (win by 1 point).
- Teams switch sides at 11 points.
- One 1-minute timeout per team.

9.5 Format at a Glance

Stage	Game To	Deciding Rule	Switch Sides	Timeout
Group Stage	13	Sudden death at 12 all	No	None
Quarterfinals	15	Serve to win at 14 all	No	None
Semifinals, 3rd Place, Finals	21	Serve to win at 20 all	At 11 points	One 1 minute per team

10. Match Officiating and Conduct

10.1 Group Stage

- Matches are officiated by the players themselves.
- The receiving team makes line calls and fault calls.
- Disputes should be settled respectfully between the teams.
- The Tournament Director or officials, if present, may overrule a call only if they have a clear and unobstructed view of the play.

10.2 Quarterfinals, Semifinals, 3rd Place Match and Finals

- Matches will be officiated by appointed referees.
- The referee and line judges make the final decisions.

10.3 Video Review and Line Calls

- In matches without an official video review system, smartphone recordings, livestreams, or any other external video footage will not form part of the officiating process and cannot be used to overturn or challenge a line call.

10.4 Punctuality and Check-In

- Players must check in at least 30 minutes before their scheduled match.
- Players must be ready and present when called.
- Failure to check in or report may result in a forfeit or walkover and a recorded loss.

10.5 Warm-Up and Match Start

- Warm-up is limited to a maximum of 1 minute, starting after the instruction of the Crew, Point Guard, or Referee.
- A maximum grace period of 5 minutes applies from the scheduled match start time.
- Failure to arrive within the grace period may result in a walkover and a recorded loss.

10.6 Conduct and Sportsmanship

- All participants are expected to compete honestly and to demonstrate good sportsmanship.
- Respect fellow players, officials, and volunteers.
- Comply with all tournament rules.
- Abusive behaviour, harassment, intimidation, deliberate cheating, or unsportsmanlike conduct may result in a warning, match forfeiture, disqualification, or suspension from future Pickle Grand Slam events.
- The Organiser reserves the right to disqualify, remove, ban, or refuse participation to any player whose behaviour is deemed inappropriate, unsportsmanlike, or in breach of tournament rules.
- Any disputes, disciplinary matters, or interpretation of these tournament rules shall be determined by the Organiser and the Tournament Director.

11. Timeout Policy

- No timeouts are allowed during the Group Stage and Quarterfinal matches.
- One 1-minute timeout per team is allowed during the Semifinals, 3rd Place Match, and Finals.
- Injury timeout: a maximum of 10 minutes per team per match.
- If a player cannot continue after the injury timeout, the team withdraws.

12. Participant Responsibility

- All participants compete at their own risk.
- Participants are responsible for ensuring they are physically fit and medically capable of taking part, and should take appropriate precautions regarding their physical condition.
- Players must stop play immediately if they feel unwell or sustain an injury.
- The Organiser and the venue shall not be held liable for any injury, accident, illness, loss, or damage arising before, during, or after the event.
- Participants are solely responsible for the security of their personal belongings.

13. Governance and Organiser Rights

13.1 Organiser Rights

- The Organiser may change the schedule, format, categories, or prizes when necessary.
- Unsportsmanlike conduct may result in a warning, a penalty, or disqualification.
- The Tournament Director's decision is final and binding.

13.2 Event Cancellation and Postponement

- The Organiser reserves the right to cancel, postpone, or modify the tournament due various unforeseen reasons.
- If the event is cancelled, all registered teams will receive a full refund.

14. Media Consent

- Taking part in the tournament means you consent to being photographed and video recorded.
- The Organiser may use these materials for marketing and promotion.
- No compensation is payable for this use.
- Taking part also means you accept all tournament rules and policies in this handbook.

15. Contact

For tournament enquiries, withdrawals, player replacements, or to report a concern, please contact the Tournament Director through WhatsApp only or email:

- Venn (Tournament Director): 01112556826
- Email: thepicklegrandslam@gmail.com
- Instagram: follow @picklegrandslam_my to receive updates.

By registering for Pickle Grand Slam 2026, you confirm that you have read, understood, and agreed to everything in this handbook.