



2024 US OPEN PRO/SR. PRO PADDLE POLICY.

All players are required to use USA Pickleball approved paddles and have the USA Pickleball approved designation on the paddle.

A USA Pickleball official will be on site to test Pro and Sr. Pro paddles. All paddle testing decisions are made by USAP and decisions are final.

Paddles will be tested for Surface Roughness and Delamination. You can find specifications for each test here. [Equipment-Standards-Manual.pdf \(usapickleball.org\)](#)
Reference 2.E.1, 2.E.2.a.1

The US OPEN will have mandatory testing for all players making it to the semifinals. There will be no mandatory testing in qualifying rounds.

Players must test the paddles they intend to use before each semifinal match and paddles must test within listed limitations. Paddles that do not pass the testing process will be confiscated for the duration of the tournament and returned to the player following completion of their event.

Paddles that pass the testing process will be marked with a serialized USA Pickleball sticker proving legal inspection and certification. This sticker may not be removed or tampered with, must be placed on the paddle face, and will be confirmed by referees before every semifinal and final match.

A USA Pickleball official will be on site one hour before pro and sr. pro main draws begin, through the beginning of the last semifinal match of the day. Testing will take place in the Pro Tent outside of the back pro courts (#50 – 59). If the testing site moves, players will be notified.

Paddle Challenge Procedure

A player may challenge the compliance of an opponent's paddle.

A paddle challenge must be made to the referee during a timeout, or between games. The player whose paddle is challenged may continue competing with the paddle in question. Play may not be delayed, suspended, stopped, or discontinued. If a player

changes their paddle during play, they must hand the paddle in question to the referee on the court. All paddles used during a match will be tested.

If a paddle is contested, the paddle will be tested on site. If a paddle has a test result that determines it is out of the legal specifications, any awarded medals and prize money received from the event where the paddle was used will be forfeited, and the Tournament Directors have the option to impose a 1 year suspension from attending the next US Open.

If a player contests someone else's paddle, and the paddle is found to be within legal specifications, then the player contesting the paddle will be subject to forfeiting any medals and prize money, and the Tournament Directors have the option to impose a 1 year suspension from attending the next US Open.

At the conclusion of the match, both the player whose paddle is in question and the player who challenges the paddle must hand their paddles to the referee to undergo testing. Paddles will not be returned to the players until testing has been completed. Any players leaving the court with their paddle after a challenge is called will forfeit the match, be ineligible to play the remainder of the day, and may be subject to further disciplinary actions at the US Open's sole discretion.

No Tampering: Prior to each pro match, the Referee will visually inspect each paddle for non-compliance with USA Pickleball rules and signs of paddle or sticker tampering. (Tampering is defined as attempting to remove, replace or otherwise alter the sticker once it has been applied to a paddle). A Referee who determines evidence of non-compliance or post-testing tampering of a paddle or sticker will not allow the player to compete with the paddle. The Referee will collect the paddle and turn it over to the USA Pickleball tester to be re-tested or held until the player has concluded his/her final match in the tournament.

A Referee who observes a change in paddle performance during a match may in his/her discretion summon the USA Pickleball tester to observe the performance of the paddle. If the tester observes indications that the paddle may have experienced delamination, the Referee will advise the player to have the paddle retested after the conclusion of the match without penalty. If the paddle does not pass testing, it will be placed in the custody of USA Pickleball.

Any player who intentionally tampers (as defined above) with a paddle or sticker after testing is complete may be subject to disqualification from the tournament.

US OPEN rules and policies are subject to review and modification at the sole discretion of The OPEN.

The US Open stands behind its brand of integrity and helping ensure fair competition and play for all. Thank you for your cooperation!