
GREAT LAKES REGION 2009 SHOWCASE EVENT

MSO Pickleball Announcements

Are You Ready for Some Pickleball?

We sure hope so because the 2009 Michigan Senior Olympics (MSO) Winter Games is the largest and most competitive Pickleball Tournament ever held in the Great Lakes Region and you are a part of it!

The USAPA has recognized the significance of this event by granting the MSO the first-ever Tier 3 sanctioning in the Great Lakes Region. This means that, in addition to MSO Gold, Silver, and Bronze medals, the top 3 teams/individuals in the 27 different age group categories will receive, USAPA national ranking points IF they are USAPA members:

Tier 3 Tournaments

- 1st Place600 pts
- 2nd Place300 pts
- 3rd Place150 pts

52 of the 82 Michigan Senior Olympic Players are USAPA Members!

The USAPA Great Lakes Region has recognized the quality of the MSO by designating it as a “Great Lakes Region 2009 Showcase Event” and this means, among other things, that your MSO matches will follow the Official USAPA Rules and will be managed by trained referees.

The MSO Players List is viewable at

http://usapa.org/tourney/player_list.php?tname=mso209&admin=

and the Brackets are viewable at

http://usapa.org/tourney/bracket_list.php?tname=mso209&admin=

If you click on a bracket title, you can see the actual first round pairing for each bracket.

MSO Format

The MSO will be played in standard Double Elimination format meaning that each team will continue playing until they have lost two matches. After their first loss, they will drop down to the 2nd Chance Bracket and continue playing until they either receive their 2nd loss or they win the bracket. Remember, it is possible for the winner of the 2nd Chance Bracket to win the Gold Medal by handing the Winners’ Bracket team two consecutive losses in the Medal game.

Matches are defined as follows:

- Winners' Bracket One game to 15 win by 1
- 2nd Chance Bracket One game to 11 win by 1
- Medal Match One game to 15 win by 2
- Final Final Match One game to 11 win by 2

Even with the 4 courts at Rochester OPC, the size of the field has made it necessary to define the matches this way in order to complete the 109 teams in our 5 Divisions in 3 days.

There Division team counts and timeline are as follows:

Division	Team Count	Day	Date	Timeline
WD	19	Monday	2/2	7:30am–12:00Noon
MD	18	Monday	2/2	12:30pm – 5:00pm
MX (50-64)	19	Tuesday	2/3	7:30am–12:00Noon
MX (65-79)	13	Tuesday	2/3	12:30pm – 5:00pm
MS	23	Wednesday	2/4	7:30am–12:00Noon
WS	17	Wednesday	2/4	12:30pm – 5:00pm

In order to move smoothly through this volume of matches, we need to all be mindful of the following procedures:

1. Be on time for the MSO registration check-in process on your first day of play. 7:30am and 12:30pm each day
2. Be on time for the Players Meeting before each session
7:45am and 12:45pm each day
3. Wear your Pickleball name tags so that volunteers can identify you.
4. Watch the white board to see if your team is one of the next 4 teams to play; if that is the case, sit together on the Ready Bench.
5. **DO NOT** go on the courts until your referee calls you and escorts you to your court.
6. At the conclusion of your match, leave the court as a group with your referee.
7. Following a “Ball on Court” call, return the ball directly to the player who has raised his/her hand as the next server.

The referee’s job is to apply all the USAPA Rules fairly to both sides.

Referees will do the following:

1. Confirm that the correct teams are on the court
2. Remind you that the match will be – One game to 15 or 11, win by 1 or 2. If the game is to 15, teams will change sides at 8. If the game is to 11, there will be no change of sides.
3. Ask a team to pick either the number 1 or 2 as a “coin toss” Ask the team that wins the “coin toss” whether they want to serve or receive. The serving team will always start the match on the pool side of the court.

4. Ask each doubles team to identify their first server for the match and provide them with a wristband. The player with the wristband should be on the right side of the court whenever that teams score is even. Being on the wrong side of the court when the ball is served is a fault.
5. Remind you that each team may call 2 one-minute timeouts per match. Place your paddles on the court with the ball under the paddle of the next server.
6. Call the score once he decides that the receiver is ready. Do not serve before he calls the score. After one warning, subsequent violations will be a fault and the ball will go to the next server.
7. Call illegal serves
8. Call no-volley line foot faults
9. Call foot faults on the serve.
10. Call a short serve and a let serve
11. The receiving team will call their centerline during a serve, plus their backlines and their sidelines throughout the rally.
12. If the receiving team can not agree on a line call on their side, the call is IN.
13. The team not making the call can challenge the call by asking the referee for a ruling. If the referee saw the play, he can override the original call.
14. There will be no extra referees to call lines in medal matches. Calls will be made as described above.
15. The referee will disqualify a player who exhibits unsportsmanlike conduct after having received a single warning.

Please remember

1. Warm-up and stretch your body prior to all matches
2. Stay hydrated Water will be provided.
3. Enjoy a meal or a snack at the Café on the first floor which will be open for your convenience from 9am to 5pm.
4. Restrooms are available in the locker room on the pool side and down the opposite hall by the Café.
5. Lockers are available on a first-come first-serve basis for a \$1 fee along with your driver's license.
6. Coat racks will be available outside the gym.
7. Carry your court shoes into the building and change your shoes on the chairs provided in the hall or the locker rooms.
8. Only players and volunteers will be allowed in the gym. Chairs will be provided in the halls so that spectators can watch the matches through the windows into the gym.

Finally

1. There is still time to buy a ticket for the Tuesday Karaoke Pizza Social at the Rochester Beer Company 6-8pm - \$5 for MSO Member, \$10 Non-Members. Come and sing-along your favorites including the Pickleball Song, lyrics by Singing Pickleball Pete.

2. The results of every match will be posted on the USAPA website and photos and stories will be posted on the Michigan Pickleball website
<http://mipickleball.usapa.org/>
3. Look for the Flyers for these upcoming SE Michigan Showcase Events:
 - a. 3/27 – OPC Rochester FUN Recreational Tournament
 - b. 4/11 - Hartland Spring Tournament Mixed Doubles 50+ Ages groups
 - c. May (Date TBD) - Michigan State Games - Troy - All Ages - Men's and Women's Singles and Men's and Women's Doubles
 - d. May (Date TBD) - Northville 50+ Men's and Women's Doubles
 - e. 6/13 – Auburn Hills 50+ Mixed Doubles

Each of these events will offer discounts for USAPA Members. If you are not yet a Member, there is still time to become a Member in order to

- Earn national ranking points at the MSO
- Save more than the \$20 USAPA Membership fee via the Members discounts for upcoming Showcase Events.
- Get one of those cool USAPA T-shirts.

The easiest way to become a USAPA Member quickly is to contact Janet Razz at mipickleball@gmail.com

“Support Your Sport – join USA Pickleball Association...just for the FUN of it!”

There would be no MSO Pickleball Games without the dedication of our volunteers including our fearless referees and our tireless Tournament Directors, Michelle Pozan, Janet Razz and Krystee Dorland. Michelle is one of our USAPA Ambassadors; Janet is a USAPA Member, and Chi Pickleball Enthusiast; Krystee is a USAPA Member volunteering her time and organizational skills to keep us on track.

There would be no MSO Pickleball Games without your enthusiasm for spirited competition and good sportsmanship. Thank you for your efforts on and off the court to make this a memorable event.



Now, let the Games begin!

Dick Manasseri
USAPA Great Lakes Regional Ambassador
248-375-5907 512-658-3429 cell
dmanasseri@usapa.org