



2026 US Open Pro / Champions Pro / Master Pro / Split Age Pro Paddle Policy

A. Which paddles are approved for play?

Any paddle that has the “USA Pickleball Approved” designation **and** is listed in the USA Pickleball Approved Paddle list. [Approved Paddle List](#)

B. What are paddles tested for and who is doing the testing?

USA Pickleball officials 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 Core Integrity. Paddle specifications for each test are in the USA Pickleball Equipment Standards Manual, Rules 2.E.1, 2.E.2.a.1 [Equipment Standards Manual](#)

C. When do the paddles need to be tested?

The US OPEN will have **mandatory testing for all players before the start of play AND before the start of semifinals** for Pro, Split Pro and Champions Pro and Masters Pro brackets.

Pro players will also have their paddles tested prior to the finals.

Players must test the paddles they intend to use and paddles must test within listed limitations. Depending on how many players are in the testing queue, the paddle testers may limit the number of paddles any one player can test at a time.

The paddle tester will take custody of any paddle that does not pass the testing process for the duration of the tournament and return it to the player following the completion of their events.

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, will be placed on the paddle by the testing authorities, and will be confirmed by referees.

A USA Pickleball official will be on site at least one hour before pro and sr. pro main draws begin, through the beginning of the last semifinal match of the day.

D. Where is the paddle testing facility?

The testing location is next to the Pro Shop behind court 40. If the testing site moves, players will be notified.



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E. Additional information

A player may not challenge another player's paddle before or during a match.

A Referee who observes a change in paddle performance during a match may in his/her discretion summon the Head Referee to observe the performance of the paddle. If the Head Referee observes indications that the paddle may have experienced delamination, the Head Referee will take possession of the paddle after the match and have it tested for compliance. If the paddle does not pass testing, there is no penalty to the player, but the paddle will be placed in the custody of USA Pickleball.

Prior to each 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 and call the Head Referee.

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 US Open tournament staff.