



PADEL DOUBLES COMPETITION RULEBOOK

This rulebook sets out the competition format and operating rules for the Padel Doubles Competition at the Maccabi Junior Games 2026. All players, parents/guardians, coaches and spectators are expected to familiarise themselves with these rules before the event.

1. COMPETITION & AGE CATEGORIES

- Padel is a doubles competition.
- Age is determined by the age the player turns at any point during the 2026 calendar year.
- Players may play up an age category but may not play down.
- If the two players in a pair fall into different age categories, the pair must compete in the higher age category applicable to the older player.
- A younger player may play up with an older partner, but an older player may not play down into a younger age category.

Example: A U14 player partnering with a U16 player must enter and compete in the U16 category.

DIVISION	CATEGORY	AGES IN 2026
BOYS	U12	10,11 & 12
BOYS	U14	13 & 14
BOYS	U16	15 & 16
BOYS	U18	17 & 18
GIRLS	U14	11, 12, 13 & 14
GIRLS	U18	15, 16, 17 & 18

- Proof of age may be requested.
- The Tournament Director has the final decision on eligibility disputes.

2. MINIMUM ENTRIES & PAIR COMPOSITION

- A minimum of 4 registered pairs is required for an age category to run.
- If fewer than 4 pairs are entered, the Tournament Director may, where practical and fair, combine the category with another appropriate age category or cancel that specific age-category competition.

- Any combination of categories will respect the rule that players may play up but may not play down.
- Each entry consists of 2 players.
- The registered pair must compete together for the duration of the tournament.
- Both players must satisfy all tournament eligibility and registration requirements.
- If a registered player suffers an injury or has another legitimate reason requiring withdrawal during the tournament, that player may be replaced subject to approval by the Tournament Director.
- A replacement player must meet all Maccabi Junior Games eligibility and registration requirements and must be eligible for the age category in which the pair is competing.
- A replacement is permitted only to allow the remaining player to continue after the genuine withdrawal of the original partner and may not be used for tactical or performance reasons.

3. MATCH FORMAT & SCORING

- All matches are played as one set.
- The first pair to win 6 games wins the set.
- At 5–5, the next game wins the set. The set therefore finishes 6–5.
- There is no 6–6 tiebreak.
- Golden Deuce / Golden Point applies in every game.
- Normal tennis scoring applies: Love, 15, 30, 40, Game.
- At 40–40 (Deuce), one deciding point is played.
- The pair winning the deciding point wins the game.
- The receiving pair chooses which side will receive the deciding serve.
- There is no advantage scoring.

Tournament format: 1 set • first to 6 games • at 5–5 next game wins • Golden Deuce at 40–40.

4. SERVING & GENERAL RULES OF PLAY

- The serve must be underarm and comply with standard padel serving rules.
- The server must bounce the ball behind the service line before striking it.
- The ball must be struck at or below waist height.
- The serve is played diagonally into the opponent's service box.
- A first and second serve are permitted.
- A failed second serve is a double fault and the point is lost.
- The server alternates service courts after each point.
- The serving order within each pair must be maintained throughout the set.
- The receiving order must also be maintained in accordance with normal padel rules.
- Standard recognised padel rules apply unless specifically amended by these tournament regulations.

- The ball may bounce once on the court before being returned.
- After bouncing on the court, the ball may rebound from the glass or permitted wall and remain in play.
- Players may use their own glass/walls to return the ball where permitted under standard padel rules.
- Volleys are permitted, except when returning the serve before the ball has bounced.
- A ball that bounces twice results in loss of the point.
- A ball that directly strikes a player is dealt with in accordance with standard padel rules.
- Court fixtures, fencing, glass and any out-of-court play will be governed by the venue conditions and the instructions of tournament officials.

5. COMPETITION STRUCTURE, STANDINGS & SCHEDULING

- The exact draw format will depend on final entry numbers and may include pools/round-robin play followed by knockout rounds.
- Where pool standings are required, positions will be determined in the following order:
 - Matches won
 - Head-to-head result
 - Game difference
 - Games won
 - Games conceded
- A deciding method determined by the Tournament Director
- Where three or more pairs are tied, head-to-head will only be used where it clearly resolves the tie. Otherwise, the relevant game statistics will be applied.
- Depending on entry numbers, knockout rounds may include semi-finals, a final and a bronze-medal/3rd place playoff.
- A maximum 5-minute warm-up is permitted before each match.
- Players should report and be ready to play at least 10 minutes before their scheduled match time.
- Matches must begin promptly to keep the tournament on schedule.
- Players and parents are responsible for checking the official tournament schedule and any communicated changes.
- The tournament will make reasonable efforts to accommodate participants entered in more than one permitted sport. However, players remain responsible for reporting to their padel matches on time and following the official schedule.
- Where unavoidable clashes occur, the Tournament Director will determine the appropriate course of action. Tournament scheduling decisions are final.

6. LATE ARRIVAL, FORFEITS, OFFICIALS & DISPUTES

- A pair that is not ready to play within 10 minutes of its scheduled starting time may forfeit the match, unless the delay is caused by another official Maccabi Junior Games fixture or by circumstances accepted by the Tournament Director.
- A forfeited match will be recorded as a 6–0 loss.

- Repeated lateness or failure to report may result in further tournament sanctions.
- The Tournament Director has final discretion in exceptional circumstances.
- Players are expected to make honest and fair line calls at all times.
- Where matches are self-officiated, players must make clear calls and give opponents the benefit of the doubt where genuinely uncertain.
- Parents, coaches and spectators may not make line calls or interfere in a match.
- If players cannot resolve a dispute, play should stop and a Tournament Official should be called.
- The decision of the appointed official or Tournament Director is final.
- Any formal dispute must be raised with the Tournament Director and not argued with an official or opponent during play.

7. COACHING, EQUIPMENT, WELFARE & CONDUCT

- No coaching is permitted during active points or games.
- Any coaching allowed during designated breaks must not delay play and remains subject to the instructions of tournament officials.
- Parents and spectators may encourage players positively but may not coach from the side of the court, challenge opponents, argue calls or interfere with officials.
- Players must provide their own recognised padel racket and personal equipment unless otherwise advised.
- Suitable non-marking court shoes must be worn.
- Appropriate sporting attire suitable for a junior sporting event is required.
- Match balls may be supplied by the tournament organisers.
- Unsafe, damaged or inappropriate equipment may be refused by a Tournament Official.
- If a player is injured during a match, play may be temporarily suspended for assessment by the tournament medical team or appointed official.
- A reasonable medical assessment/treatment period may be allowed at the discretion of the Tournament Director or appointed official.
- If a player cannot safely continue, the pair must retire from the match.
- A player who withdraws from the tournament due to injury may be replaced in accordance with the Pair Composition rules. A replacement player may not enter part-way through a match already in progress.
- Player safety takes priority over completion of a match.
- All players, coaches, parents and spectators are expected to uphold the values and spirit of the Maccabi Junior Games.
- Abusive, offensive or threatening language, racket throwing, deliberate equipment or court abuse, intimidation, harassment, deliberate cheating, repeated unsporting conduct or refusal to follow an official's instruction will not be tolerated.
- Depending on the seriousness of the conduct, sanctions may include a warning, point penalty, game penalty, match forfeiture, removal from the court or disqualification from the tournament.
- Interference by parents, coaches or spectators may result in their removal from the playing area or venue.

8. WEATHER, MEDALS & FINAL AUTHORITY

- If play is interrupted by weather, unsafe court conditions, venue issues or other unforeseen circumstances, the Tournament Director may delay, relocate, shorten, reschedule or otherwise adjust matches or the competition format as reasonably necessary to complete the tournament.
- Gold, silver and bronze medals will be awarded according to the final placings in each eligible age category under the approved competition structure.
- Medal positions will be determined according to the approved competition format and applicable pool and knockout results.
- These rules have been adapted specifically for the Maccabi Junior Games 2026 to provide a fair, enjoyable and time-efficient junior padel competition.
- Where a situation is not specifically covered by this rulebook, standard recognised padel rules will apply, subject to any tournament-specific modification announced by the Tournament Director.
- The Tournament Director has final authority on eligibility, draws, scheduling, interpretation of rules, disputes, forfeits, conduct, weather interruptions, court availability and any unforeseen circumstances.

