



# USA ROUNDNET

## Sanctioned Tournament Specifications

Established by the USAR Tournaments Committee

Updated January 2, 2023

## SECTION 1: TOURNAMENT SETUP

### 1.1 TOURNAMENT RULES & EQUIPMENT

- 1.1.1 Tournament play must adhere to the latest [USA Roundnet official rules](#).
- 1.1.2 Tournament play must use USA Roundnet-approved equipment for all divisions.
- 1.1.3. All players are required to be current [USA Roundnet members](#).
- 1.1.4 The Tournament should have enough sets for all teams to play simultaneously with a minimum of two balls per net. Exceptions based on field availability and tournament size will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the USA Roundnet Tournaments Committee.
- 1.1.5 Staff must have a ball pump and/or needle on hand to inflate or deflate balls as needed throughout the tournament.

### 1.2 TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR

- 1.2.1 A USA Roundnet (USAR) Sanctioned Event must be hosted by a [USAR Certified Tournament Director](#) (TD).
- 1.2.2 A knowledgeable, fully dedicated staff person (not playing) must be present for the duration of the tournament. This can be the TD, volunteer, or member of the tournament staff. They must be knowledgeable in all facets of tournament flow including a complete understanding of the rules of play.

### 1.3 REGISTRATION

- 1.3.1 Tournament registration must be set up on Fwango.io.
- 1.3.2 Registration must offer divisions in accordance with the [USAR Player & Division Ratings](#) and must include a minimum of three divisions from which players of various skill levels may choose. Divisions may be combined at the TD's discretion if published ahead of time (e.g. there are not enough teams registered to fill a division).
- 1.3.3 Division, team name, and player names should be collected at registration as well as player emails and phone numbers (for use in communicating tournament details).



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1.3.4 The following details must be clearly outlined and established when registration opens. Any changes must be communicated to registrants at least two days prior to the tournament with an offer of a refund for any teams who no longer wish to participate based on the changes:

1.3.4.1 Tournament date and time, including estimated schedule

1.3.4.2 Broad tournament location (city); Teams must be notified of field selection and location when reservation is confirmed

1.3.4.3 Tournament format for pool play and bracket stages with contingencies based on # of teams / divisions

1.3.4.4 Divisions with contingencies in the event a division does not have enough teams to make

1.3.4.5 Playing surface

1.3.4.6 Specifications regarding prizes for all places and divisions to ensure transparency and set expectations. Additionally, the prize structure may be laid out to show how resources will scale with the event

1.3.4.7 Specific equipment models for sets and balls that will be used for each division

1.3.4.8 Refund policy, including a date when “no questions asked” refunds will no longer be offered and teams will forfeit registration fees

### 1.4 TOURNAMENT LOCATION & COURT SPECIFICATIONS

1.4.1 The tournament site must be properly permitted through the owner of the property or local jurisdiction.

1.4.2 The field should be a flat surface, usually grass or artificial turf, but other surfaces (sand, hard court, etc.) are permitted provided the site can be properly lined for [effective officiation](#).

1.4.3 Nets should be separated by a minimum distance of 12 yards between the centers of each net.

1.4.4 All courts must be properly lined for [effective officiation](#). Lines must also be redrawn as needed to ensure effective officiation throughout the tournament.

1.4.5 The tournament site must include restroom access for participants.

1.4.6 The TD should provide a first aid kit and adequate access to water for participants throughout the day.

## SECTION 2: TOURNAMENT FORMAT & PROCESS

### 2.1 TOURNAMENT PREPARATION

2.1.1 24-48 hours prior to the start of the tournament, an email should be sent to registrants outlining tournament logistics and reviewing tournament rules and etiquette.



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2.1.2 Field set up should be completed at least 30 minutes prior to the start of the tournament to allow adequate time for teams to check-in and warm up. Full field set up includes: fully lined courts with nets and ball(s) placed, net tension and ball inflation in line with proper standards, unlocked bathrooms, and accessible water.

2.1.3 Announcements should be made prior to the start of the tournament to inform participants how the tournament will run and recap any rule updates or points of interest.

2.1.4 After announcements, the TD should be prepared to give any first-time roundnet tournament attendees a brief review of tournament rules and etiquette and answer any questions they may have.

### 2.2 TOURNAMENT FORMAT

2.2.1 A typical tournament includes a round robin (pool play) stage and a bracket stage. The TD may determine the format of each stage of the tournament by the following specifications, but the tournament format must be approved by the USAR Tournament committee and outlined clearly when registration opens.

2.2.1.1 All games must be played to either 15 or 21. 21 is recommended when possible. A "hard cap" of 21 or 25, respectively, is allowed during pool play, but should be avoided during bracket play, if possible.

2.2.1.2 Pool play games can be single games, two games (double round robin), or a best 2 out of 3 series.

2.2.1.3 A consolation bracket must be provided for teams to play out for places at each round of the main bracket. This provides each team a guaranteed minimum of 2 bracket stage series.

2.2.1.4 Bracket matches should consist of best 2 out of 3 series for both the winner's and consolation brackets.

2.2.1.5 Bracket can be single or double elimination.

2.2.1.6 Bracket can be seeded via division rankings from pool play (typical) or pre-seeded by ranking within individual pools (more context in 2.2.3.2)

2.2.2 The process for creating and seeding round robin pools must be transparent and outlined clearly when registration opens..

2.2.3 Seeding for the bracket stage from the round robin stage should be determined in the following order:

1. Inverse losses
2. Head-to-head results (if applicable)
3. Point differential ratio (total point differential divided by games played)
4. Coin flip (randomly determined)

2.2.3.1 The TD should announce finalized pool play results and bracket with a five-minute review period to give teams an opportunity to verify and report any inaccuracies.



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2.2.3.2 The bracket stage is typically seeded by ranking the entire division but a pre-seeded bracket can also be used by ranking individual pools and slotting the teams into predetermined slots based on pool rank (i.e. the team that finished 1st in pool A would get the 1st seed, 1st in pool B would get the 2nd seed, 1st in pool C would get the 3rd seed, etc). This must be clearly outlined when registration opens.

2.2.4 To learn more about acceptable tournament formats and how they should be applied to various scenarios, please refer to the USA Roundnet Tournament Format Guidelines (coming soon).

## **SECTION 3: PRIZES**

### **3.1 PRIZE TRANSPARENCY**

3.1.1 Specific details for prizes (prize description, qualifying places, divisions) must be established and clearly outlined when registration opens. If prizes will not be awarded, this must be clearly outlined at registration.

3.1.2 If prizes are conditional on tournament registrations or other metrics, timing, contingencies, and scaling tiers should be specified when registration opens. Communication around conditional prizes should be communicated clearly and transparently when registration opens.

### **3.2 ACCEPTABLE PRIZES**

3.2.1 All prizes, prize money, and merchandise awarded must be redeemed at the conclusion of the event or at the player's discretion.

3.2.2 Prizes that cannot be awarded at the conclusion of the event are to be avoided unless absolutely necessary. Awarding future registration is strictly prohibited.

3.2.2.1 If prize money is awarded, the TD may use Venmo or PayPal to facilitate the financial payout, as long as the transfer is provided within 72 hours of the conclusion of the event.

2.2.3.2 If a prize must be shipped, the TD must provide tracking number details to the participants within 72 hours of the conclusion of the event.

2.2.3.3 If future services are awarded as prizes, the TD must provide an electronic or written receipt of the services to be rendered within 72 hours of the conclusion of the event.