



State Masters Pickleball – Championship Pathway

State Masters Pickleball gives teams the opportunity to advance from local Conference competition all the way to a National Championship.

CONFERENCE → STATE → REGIONAL → NATIONAL

Conference Level Play

Each SMP season begins with **Conference-level play**, with Conferences generally consisting of Clubs located within the same or neighboring counties.

Teams compete throughout the season for the opportunity to become their **Conference Champion** and advance to the State Championships.

State Championships

Teams that win their Conference will be invited to compete for the **State Championship** in their league and division.

State Championships will be held following the completion of each Conference season.

Regional Championships

Teams that win their State Championship will earn an invitation to compete in the annual **Regional Championships**.

Regional Championships will be held once each year, generally in June or July, and will bring together eligible State Champions from the prior Fall season and the current Spring season. Regional Champions will then advance to the National Championships.

For example, if a **3.5 Women's team from Club A** wins the New Jersey State Championship in the Fall and a **3.5 Women's team from Club B** wins the New Jersey State Championship the following Spring, **both teams will be eligible to compete at the Regional Championships.**

If the same team wins the State Championship in both the Fall and Spring seasons, that team will be the only team from that State, league and division to advance to the Regional Championships.

National Championships

Teams that win their **Regional Championship** will earn an invitation to compete for the annual **National Championship.**

The National Championships will be held following the Regional Championships. The timing and location will be determined based on participating teams, facility availability and other scheduling considerations.

Championship Locations

SMP will make every effort to schedule Regional and National Championships at locations that are reasonably central to the teams competing. However, a central location **cannot be guaranteed** and may depend on participating teams, facility availability and other scheduling considerations.

Building the Road to Nationals

The availability of Regional and National Championship competitions will depend upon **Club and team participation** and having a sufficient number of qualifying teams to create meaningful championship games.

As SMP continues to grow into additional Conferences, states and regions, the Championship Pathway will expand with it.

THE ROAD TO THE U.S. CHAMPIONSHIP STARTS LOCALLY!