

VISIT
Myrtle Beach
SOUTH CAROLINA



U.S. OPEN TEAMS 2026

PRESENTED BY



BUTTERFLY

SEP 2026
05 ▶ 07

JOHN T. RHODES
MYRTLE BEACH SPORTS CENTER
MYRTLE BEACH, SC

EVENT INFO GUIDE

This document covers important information about the competition. All policies applicable to the 2026 US Open Table Tennis Teams Championships can be found in the Event Prospectus.

Event Management and Referee Team

Last Name	First Name	Role
FARCAS	Vlad	Tournament Director
ZHANG	Emily	Tournament Registration
LEAF	Linda	Tournament Referee

GENERAL INFORMATION

Venue: John T. Rhodes Myrtle Beach Sports Center
2115 Sports Center Way, Myrtle Beach, SC 29577

Equipment

- Competition Tables: Butterfly Europa 25 and Centrefold 25 (Blue)
- Balls: Nittaku 3-Star Premium 40+ (White), provided by Paddle Palace
- Floor: Enlio Rubber Flooring on top of Wood Floor

BEFORE YOU TRAVEL – MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS

ACTION REQUIRED – DO THIS NOW, NOT AT THE VENUE

1. Every player on your roster must have PAID THEIR \$50 PLAYER FEE inside their own OmniPong profile. The team entry fee does NOT cover this — it is paid individually by each participant.
2. Every team member must hold an ACTIVE USATT GOLD MEMBERSHIP that is valid through September 7, 2026.

Any team with unpaid player fees or expired/basic memberships WILL BE DELAYED at check-in. Memberships cannot be upgraded on site quickly, and a delayed check-in can put your first match at risk of default. ALL UPDATES AND RENEWALS can be done on www.usatt.justgo.com

How to check your team in 5 minutes

- Log in to www.omnipong.com and open each player's profile — confirm the \$50 player fee shows as PAID.
- Confirm each player's USATT membership status and expiration date at usatt.org.
- Captains: verify ALL of your players, including alternates, before you leave home.
- Questions about membership or fees: contact the Tournament Director in advance — not on Friday night.

SPORT SPECIFIC INFORMATION

Draws

Draws will be made at least one (1) day before the start of the competition.

Accreditation

All coaches are required to have accreditation to access the Field of Play. To be eligible for accreditation, all coaches must be fully SafeSport compliant and have a current criminal background check. All coaches must complete the Coaches Registration Form.

Check-In & Practice Area

- **Friday, September 4 — 5:00pm to 8:00pm**
- Team check-in and packet pick-up take place during these hours, at the same time as open practice.
- Come early. Check-in is fastest for teams whose player fees and Gold memberships are already in order.

Submit Your Roster

All teams must submit their roster 15 minutes prior to the match start time. If a team has not submitted a roster, the Tournament Committee will assign a default roster. The Tournament Committee will be very strict on this policy.

Field of Play

- During matches, up to 1 coach may sit at the bench – this coach must be accredited.
- There is no practice allowed on Featured Court tables during the event after the beginning of each session.

LOC Contact

Vlad Farcas — Tournament Director

Email: vlad.farcas@usatt.org

Team Registration

The captain of each team must pick up the team packet on Friday, September 4, or on Saturday morning prior to the first match. The packet includes accreditation cards, which are required for entry into the venue.

PLAYING SYSTEM – WHAT'S NEW IN 2026

The preliminary system has changed. In 2026 the preliminary round is played as a giant round robin in which most teams play two matches UP and two matches DOWN against the teams seeded nearest to them.

Field Structure

- **93 teams total.**
- **The Top 5 rated teams advance directly to the Championship Division** and do not play the preliminary round.
- **The remaining 88 teams are split into 11 preliminary groups of 8 teams**, seeded 1 through 8 within each group.

The 2-Up / 2-Down Format

Within each group of 8, every team plays the two teams seeded immediately above it and the two teams seeded immediately below it. Because teams at the top and bottom of a group have no one above or below them, they play fewer matches:

Group Seed	Matches Played	Opponents
Seed 1	2 matches (2 down)	vs. seeds 2 and 3
Seed 2	3 matches (1 up, 2 down)	vs. seeds 1, 3 and 4
Seed 3	4 matches (2 up, 2 down)	vs. seeds 1, 2, 4 and 5
Seed 4	4 matches (2 up, 2 down)	vs. seeds 2, 3, 5 and 6
Seed 5	4 matches (2 up, 2 down)	vs. seeds 3, 4, 6 and 7
Seed 6	4 matches (2 up, 2 down)	vs. seeds 4, 5, 7 and 8
Seed 7	3 matches (2 up, 1 down)	vs. seeds 5, 6 and 8
Seed 8	2 matches (2 up)	vs. seeds 6 and 7

- Each preliminary group produces 13 team ties in total.
- **Seeds 1 and 8 play 2 matches; seeds 2 and 7 play 3 matches; seeds 3 through 6 play 4 matches.**
- Teams that play fewer preliminary matches will have a bye in the corresponding round — check STADIUM for your personal round-by-round schedule.

Ranking and Division Placement

Preliminary results determine which of the eight divisions each team enters. Because teams play a different number of matches, teams are ranked on the ratio of ties won to ties played, then by the ITTF standard tie-break procedure (individual matches, then games, then points among the tied teams).

- **Championship Division (Division 1):** the Top 5 rated teams plus the 11 preliminary group winners — 16 teams.
- **Divisions 2 through 8:** formed from the teams finishing 2nd through 8th in each preliminary group — 11 teams per division.

The final composition of each division is published with the draw once the preliminary round is are completed.

DIVISIONAL PLAYING SYSTEMS

Championship Division (Division 1) — 16 Teams

- **Round robin stage:** the 16 teams are drawn into 4 round robin groups of 4 teams. Each team plays 3 group matches.
- **All Championship Division round robin matches are played in the SWAYTHLING CUP 9-MATCH FORMAT.**
- **Top 2 in each group advance to the Championship Single Elimination** (8 teams — quarterfinals, semifinals, final).
- **Bottom 2 in each group go to the Consolation Single Elimination** (8 teams — quarterfinals, semifinals, final). No team is eliminated after the round robin — every Championship Division team keeps playing.
- **Both the Championship and the Consolation single elimination brackets are played in the SWAYTHLING CUP 5-MATCH FORMAT.**

5-match format: A v X, B v Y, C v Z, A v Y, B v X. | 9-match format: A v X, B v Y, C v Z, B v X, A v Z, C v Y, B v Z, C v X, A v Y.

Divisions 2 – 8 — 11 Teams Each

- **Each division is split into 2 round robin groups** (Group A and Group B — one group of 6 and one group of 5). Teams in the group of 5 will have one bye round.
- **The Top 2 teams in each round robin advance to the Semifinals** — A1 v B2 and B1 v A2. The semifinal winners meet in the Division Final; the semifinal losers play for 3rd place.
- **Every team that does not reach the semifinals plays a Placement Match against the team that finished in the same position in the other group:** 3rd in Group A plays 3rd in Group B, 4th plays 4th, 5th plays 5th, and so on.

Example: the team that places 2nd in Group A of Division 2 will play the team that places 1st in Group B of Division 2 in the semifinal; the team that places 3rd in Group A of Division 2 will play the team that places 3rd in Group B of Division 2 in a placement match.

- **ALL matches in Divisions 2 – 8 — round robin, semifinals, final and placement matches — are played in the SWAYTHLING CUP 9-MATCH FORMAT.**

**** EVERY TEAM PLAYS ON ALL THREE DAYS, INCLUDING THE FINAL DAY ****

SCHEDULE

Daily Match Times

	Day 1 & Day 2 (Sep 5 – 6)	Day 3 (Sep 7)
Round 1	9:45 am	9:30 am
Round 2	12:30 pm	12:30 pm
Round 3	3:00 pm	3:30 pm
Round 4	5:30 pm	—

Check-In & Practice Day

Friday, September 4 • 5:00pm – 8:00pm

Team check-in, packet pick-up and open practice.

Day 1 — Preliminary Round

Saturday, September 5 • 9:45am, 12:30pm, 3:00pm, 5:30pm

All 88 preliminary teams play their 2-up / 2-down round robin matches across four rounds. Teams with 2 or 3 preliminary matches will have byes in one or two of these rounds. The Top 5 rated teams do not play on Day 1 — they enter the Championship Division on Day 2.

Day 2 — Divisional Round Robins

Sunday, September 6 • 9:45am, 12:30pm, 3:00pm, 5:30pm

- **Championship Division:** round robin matches 1, 2 and 3 at 9:45am, 12:30pm and 3:00pm (9-match format).
- **Divisions 2 – 8:** round robin matches 1 through 4 at 9:45am, 12:30pm, 3:00pm and 5:30pm.

Day 3 — Finals Day

Monday, September 7 • 9:30am, 12:30pm, 3:30pm

- **Championship Division:** 9:30am Quarterfinals, 12:30pm Semifinals, 3:30pm Finals — Championship and Consolation brackets run side by side, all in the 5-match format.
- **Divisions 2 – 8:** 9:30am final round robin match, 12:30pm Semifinals and Placement Matches, 3:30pm Division Final and remaining Placement Matches.

**** ALL TEAMS PLAY ON DAY 3 ****

**Match times are start times. Please be at your table and checked in ahead of the scheduled start; see the Mandatory Match Check-In policy below.*

CHECKING IN & REPORTING SCORES

Draws and matches are all available on STADIUM. Go to stadiumcompete.com to find the tournament.

One-Time Setup

Click the “Report scores as...” button at the top of the tournament page. Find yourself and enter your birthdate to verify. You should only need to do this once per device.

Once you have verified yourself as a player, you will see a button above all your active matches that says “Report Scores.”

Find Your Matches

Click on Matches or Draws to find your matches and team standings. Each match should have a start time and table assigned. Preliminary byes are shown on your team's schedule — confirm your rounds on Saturday morning.

Before Your Match

15 minutes before each match begins, find the match and click “Report Scores” to enter your lineup. You will first choose a lineup order preference (either ABC or XYZ). Once BOTH teams have submitted their preference, you will be able to submit your player lineup.

Note: You are responsible for choosing your lineup before the match start time. If your opponents have not selected their lineup preference, please approach the control desk. If you do not choose your lineup in time, the tournament organizer may select one for you.

During Your Match

As you play your team match, enter the game scores on STADIUM. Please report the score following every game — not after the full match — so the control desk can follow your progress. All team members should be able to report scores for each team match.

After Your Match

As soon as your match is complete, submit the scores on STADIUM. Show your device to a member of the opposing team. If they agree with the scores, your opponent should enter the last 2 digits of THEIR birth year to verify. Click “Submit” to finalize the results.

If you have any questions or encounter technical issues throughout the tournament, please visit the control desk.

TABLE 1 AND OTHER OFFICIATED TEAM TIES

Call Area Procedures for Matches on Table 1

- If your match is scheduled on Table 1, it will be officiated.
- The Team Captain must report to the Call Area of Table 1 at least 25 minutes prior to the scheduled match time for the official toss.
- The team roster must be submitted on paper at the Call Area.

Penalties for Late Arrival

- Failure to arrive 20 minutes before the scheduled match will result in the loss of the right to choose bench side and ABC/XYZ team line order preference.
- Failure to arrive 10 minutes before the scheduled match to submit the roster will result in the Tournament Committee assigning a default roster.

ALL QUARTERFINALS, SEMIFINALS AND FINALS OF THE CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION WILL BE OFFICIATED.

COACHES AND SPECTATORS

All members listed in the USATT Coaching Database will receive free access to the playing venue. Coaches without an active Coaching License may purchase an Entry Pass for \$50, valid for the entire event. To coach a team that includes a minor athlete, the coach must be fully SafeSport compliant.

Friends and family members may purchase an Event Pass for \$50, available online or at the door.

MEMBERSHIP & PLAYER FEES

CHECK-IN WILL BE DELAYED WITHOUT THESE TWO ITEMS

- Player Fee: the \$50 registration fee must be paid by each participant inside their own OmniPong account.
- Membership: every team member must hold an active USATT Gold (or Pro) Membership valid through the event.

Players holding only a Basic, Bronze or Silver Membership will be required to upgrade at the Registration Desk prior to participation. Captains are responsible for verifying every player on their roster before arriving in Myrtle Beach.

VENUE FOOD POLICY

NO OUTSIDE FOOD, DRINK OR COOLERS IN ANY AREA OF THE BUILDING.

Food, water and concessions are available inside the venue.