

Exceptional Performer Youth Exemption**Rationale**

The purpose of this policy is to support the development of youth less than 19 years old within the philosophy of the Pickleball Long-Term Player Development (LTPD).

Presently there are very limited opportunities for youth to be exposed to challenging age-equivalent competition.

Pickleball Ontario is providing the following exemption criteria to fully and carefully plan the development of youth skills via competition.

Policy Guidelines

1. There must be an insufficient number of age appropriate tournaments for the candidate to experience meaningful developmental competition experience, within a reasonable geographic area.
2. The candidate must be at least 12 years old, a Pickleball Ontario member and fit within at least the Learn To Train stage of Player Development.
(<http://sportforlife.ca/learn-to-train/>)
3. The candidate can enroll in any skill-based categories, and any age categories less than 55 years, as allowed per tournament rules.
4. The number of athletes approved for a tournament will be capped at eight (8).
5. The candidate shall be limited to a maximum of 5 tournaments per 12-month period
 - a. A request must be completed for each adult tournament a youth player wishes to compete in.
 - b. Must be sponsored by at least 2 Pickleball Ontario members (non-family related) in good standing, who will vouch for candidate's skill level, and provide sponsorship letters
6. The candidate must be chaperoned at the tournament by a parent/guardian (not the coach) at all times,
 - a. Parent/guardian must ensure candidate is never be in the presence of only one adult
 - b. Parent/guardian must ensure candidate's support staff (e.g. Coach, trainer) each possess a valid Vulnerable Sector Check
7. The attached completed form, along with supporting documentation, to be scanned and submitted to Pickleball Ontario at president@pickleballontario.org, at least 2 weeks prior to close of registration of said tournament.
8. This policy will be reviewed within a year.

Exceptional Performer Youth Exemption

Administration

This policy shall be administered by the Pickleball Ontario President or delegate at any Pickleball Ontario related meeting.

Policy Revised

MARCH 28, 2019

President



Jim Parrott