

TANZANIA PICKLEBALL LEAGUE OF NATIONS • 2026

THE ROAD TO TPLON

A transparent pathway from community participation to elite representation

CORE MESSAGE

Your road to TPLON starts at Dar United.

TPLON is not only a final competition. It is the destination of a season-long pathway that rewards participation, performance, reliability, sportsmanship and contribution to the wider pickleball community.

The system creates several legitimate routes into TPLON so that elite players, developing players, coaches, community members and humanitarian representatives can all understand how selection works.

**LEAD QUALIFICATION
EVENT**

Dar United for Refugees

ORGANIZER

Pickle in Dar, powered by OwosTanzania

DOCUMENT STATUS

Player pathway framework • 18 August 2026

WHY THE PATHWAY EXISTS

ONE DESTINATION. SEVERAL WAYS TO EARN A PLACE.

TPLON brings together sport, diplomacy and humanitarian impact. The player pathway must therefore recognize more than a single ranking or one isolated result.

The principles

1. **Opportunity.** Players should be able to see a credible route forward, whatever their current level or community role.
2. **Merit.** Competitive performance matters. Dar United results and the published points system provide objective evidence.
3. **Commitment.** Selection rewards players who show up, train, communicate and can be relied upon.
4. **Community.** TPLON represents the culture we are building: inclusive, respectful and connected across venues.
5. **Humanitarian purpose.** The competition serves a larger mission. Conduct must be consistent with that purpose.

The central rule

DAR UNITED

Dar United is the official gateway event through which players begin earning recognition and qualification value toward TPLON.

Dar United is designed as a city-wide event rather than a single-club competition. Participation across venues and dates demonstrates both competitive ability and genuine commitment to the wider Dar es Salaam pickleball ecosystem.

Minimum participation expectation

- A player must participate on at least two Dar United dates or at two participating venues for their pathway to be fully activated.
- Results, participation and conduct are recorded throughout the event.
- The final points formula and tie-break rules must be published before qualification standings are treated as final.

THE PLAYER JOURNEY

FROM COMMUNITY PLAYER TO TPLON CANDIDATE

STEP	MILESTONE	WHAT IT MEANS
1	JOIN & PARTICIPATE	Enter through Smash n' Smiles, HPP or another recognized Dar pickleball community and take part consistently.
2	PLAY DAR UNITED	Compete across the required dates or venues and earn results-based recognition.
3	BUILD YOUR RECORD	Demonstrate performance, development, reliability, sportsmanship and positive community conduct.
4	ENTER A SELECTION POOL	Become eligible through the Unity Player Pool, HPP pathway, Coaches' Elite route or another recognized team route.
5	REPRESENT AT TPLON	Accept the responsibilities of selection, training, communication, availability and team conduct.

What is evaluated

- Competitive results and Dar United points
- Participation across the required dates or venues
- Training commitment and willingness to develop
- Communication, punctuality and availability
- Sportsmanship and respect for players, organizers, venues and officials
- Ability to represent a team and the humanitarian values of TPLON

IMPORTANT

High level alone does not guarantee selection. A player who is unavailable, unreliable or inconsistent with TPLON's values may lose eligibility.

SELECTION ARCHITECTURE

THE RECOGNIZED ROUTES INTO TPLON

UNITY PLAYER POOL

Players identified through Dar United participation, points and conduct who are available to complete eligible TPLON rosters.

HPP TEAM

HPP builds a separate TPLON team. Because access to HPP requires being a Niner, the HPP route remains tied to the Smash n' Smiles development structure.

COACHES' ELITE

A 10-player roster composed of 3 recognized coaches and 7 players chosen by those coaches. The coaches may select players who competed in Dar United.

EMBASSY / COMMUNITY TEAMS

Teams formed under the published TPLON nationality and community rules. These teams remain subject to TPLON registration, conduct and roster requirements.

TEAM TANZANIA & HUMANITARIAN ROUTES

Separate representative rosters, including Team Tanzania and Team OWOS, may be constituted according to their defined sporting and mission-based criteria.

No automatic entitlement

Eligibility places a player into consideration; it does not create an automatic right to a roster position. Final selection also depends on team balance, gender requirements, playing combinations, availability and the needs of the competition format.

STANDARDS AND SAFEGUARDS

WHAT IT MEANS TO REPRESENT TPLON

Player responsibilities

- Confirm availability honestly and respond within published deadlines.
- Attend required practices, team meetings and competition sessions.
- Respect partners, opponents, captains, coaches, officials, volunteers and venue staff.
- Avoid discriminatory, threatening, abusive or deliberately provocative conduct.
- Respect TPLON's diplomatic and humanitarian purpose in public posts, team chats and at events.
- Notify the team promptly if injury, travel or another issue affects participation.

Selection and removal safeguards

A transparent pathway requires both published standards and discretion to protect the event. Organizers may review or withdraw eligibility where documented conduct, repeated non-attendance, dishonesty, safety concerns or serious disruption make representation inappropriate.

Where practical, decisions should be recorded, communicated to the player and reviewed by more than one responsible organizer. Immediate action may still be necessary when safety or event integrity is at risk.

Flags, identity and political expression

TPLON welcomes national and community identity, but participation must not be used to intimidate, target or provoke other participants. The event's flag and identity rules should be applied consistently and published before competition.

OPERATIONAL RULE TO PUBLISH

The permitted flag framework, roster eligibility rules and process for resolving disputed symbols or political messaging must be finalized before teams begin public promotion.

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ROAD TO TPLON

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Play Dar United. Build your record. Show your commitment.
Earn your opportunity to represent.

TPLON selection should feel ambitious but understandable: no closed door, no single route, and no promise without responsibility. The pathway is designed to turn curiosity into participation, participation into development, and development into meaningful representation.

Your road to TPLON starts at Dar United — play at least two of the three venues, build your record, and earn your place in the Unity Player Pool, the Coaches' Elite route, or one of the other recognized pathways into the tournament.