2026-2027 USA BADMINTON
2026 SYNERGY NC SOUTH
OPEN LOCAL CHAMPIONSHIPS
December 19-20, 2026
Entry Deadline: December 10, 2026, 11:59 am
(ONE MINUTE BEFORE NOON PST)

1. National Organization	2. Presented by	3. Date	4. Venue
USA Badminton P.O. Box 200523 Denver, CO 80220 www.usabadminton.org	Synergy Badminton Academy	December 19-20, 2026	2126 Energy Dr. Apex, NC 27502 www.synergybadmintonnc.com

5. Contacts

Membership/Player Eligibility/JuniorRanking/Junior Tournaments	USAB National Office ContactUs@usabadminton.org
Technical Issues (TournamentSoftware, Stripe)	Thai Pham Thai.Pham@usabadminton.org
Coaching Pass	USAB National Office CoachingPass@usabadminton.org
Facilities, hotel *etc.*	Tournament Director – TBD
Seeding, Draw, Schedule	Referee – TBD
Technical Officials	Technical Officials Advisory Group(TOAG) toag@usabadminton.org

6. Entry Checklist:

- Read through the prospectus.
- Register through the TournamentSoftware link.
  - If the athlete already has a USA Badminton membership:
    - Check that the athlete's membership is valid through the duration of the tournament.
    - Check that the athlete's member ID on TournamentSoftware matches their USAB ID.
  - If completing a first-time entry for a new athlete:
    - Create and pay for their USAB membership through https://usabadminton.clublocker.com/ .
    - Create their TournamentSoftware account. Use their USAB member ID for the TournamentSoftware member ID.
    - Submit age verification documents (see Section 9) for the athlete to the tournament Dropbox folder or email to Mary Nila at Merrick.Nila@usabadminton.org.
  - Ensure all entered events are fully paid through Stripe.
- If the athlete is 18 years old at any time during the tournament, complete NCSI Background Check and SafeSport Training.
- Each athlete must have submitted the waiver on JotForm or TournamentSoftware (https://form.jotform.com/222146698539165) for the tournament.
- If the parent intends to substitute line judge, they must complete this form: https://form.jotform.com/211716316497055
- Coaching:
  - If the coach already has a valid USAB-issued Coaching Pass for the 2026-2027 season, remind them to check their expiration dates and renew anything expired.
  - Any coach without a USAB-issued Coaching Pass must apply for one by the deadlines listed (see Section 20).

7. Events

- Categories: Boy's Singles, Girl's Singles, Boy's Doubles, Girl's Doubles and Mixed Doubles.
- Age Divisions: UNDER-11, UNDER-13, UNDER-15, UNDER-17, AND UNDER-19.
    - Registering players must be born between January 1, 2008 and December 31, 2017. USAB reserves the right to not accept entries for players that do not meet the age criteria for the r espective age group events.
    - Events that only have 1 or 2 players/pairs will be combined with the next age group up or canceled.
    - Parents are advised that all young players must be mature enough to handle competition without assistance. Laws of Badminton and USA Badminton Tournament Regulations will be enforced throughout. Athletes must follow the USAB Athlete Code of Conduct and USAB Waiver & Release of Liability for the event.
    - Players may enter a maximum of 3 events consisting of 1 Singles event, 1 Doubles event, and 1 Mixed Doubles event. For all tournaments, the 3 events entered may only span 2 age groups *e.g.,* U13 GS – U15 GD – U15 MX is acceptable, but U13 GS – U15GD – U17 MX is not acceptable. However, points accrued playing in an older age group cannot be applied in the younger age group where the player competes.
    - No geographical separation and no shadow seeds will be used.
- To qualify for an age division, the player's age must be under the age limit as of 12/31/2026.
    - UNDER-19 (born year 2008, 2009 and later)
    - UNDER-17 (born year 2010, 2011 and later)
    - UNDER-15 (born year 2012, 2013 and later)
    - UNDER-13 (born year 2014, 2015 and later)
    - UNDER-11 (born year 2016, 2017 and later)

Consolation

- Consolation may be played if time and courts permit. Consolation is not guaranteed and the referee will have the final decision on whether to hold consolation and what format it will be.
- Example of a previous consolation format run:
- Players who lose their first match will be scheduled for consolation competition as time permits.
    - Consolation matches will be standard full matches (2 out of 3 games to 15) or as time permits. The Referee may choose to limit Consolation matches to one TBD point game, or eliminate them, as needed. Preference will be given to lower age groups to retain consolation competition in the fullest form possible.
    - Umpires may not be provided.

8. Caps and Seeding

In the circumstance that more entries are received than can be accommodated in the available court hours, events may be capped. The event Caps and seedings will be based on junior rankings as of November 2026 or an updated ranking as of December 2026, if available, even if the rankings are incomplete or contain errors. Players on the reserve list will be informed by December 14, 2026.

9. Eligibility

- Participation in the 2026 Synergy NC South OLC is open to any current member of USA Badminton in good standing, who meets the age criteria and eligibility criteria below. Non-members must join USA Badminton (https://usabadminton.clublocker.com/) prior to entering online**.**
- Contact USAB at ContactUs@usabadminton.org if guidance is needed on player eligibility, especially players with foreign passports.

Who Can Compete

- U.S. citizens living in the U.S. and outside the U.S
- Non-U.S. Citizens
    - U.S. Permanent Residents (Green Card holders) living in the U.S.

- Non-U.S. Permanent Residents with long term U.S. visas (living and/or studying in U.S.)

- All participants should have their Birth Certificate or Passport copy and a current passport sized photo uploaded to https://www.dropbox.com/request/yr1yvhryfnuehzf5d0xb or sent to Merrick.Nila@usabadminton.org for age verification. Please upload your photo to your Club Locker account.
- Non- U.S. Citizens who are living in the U.S. are responsible for uploading to https://www.dropbox.com/request/yr1yvhryfnuehzf5d0xb or emailing to Merrick.Nila@usabadminton.org a copy of their current U.S. Permanent Resident Card (Green Card) and/or long-term U.S. visa (more than 1 year) to show that they are legally residing in the U.S.
- **Players that will be 18 years old at any time during the tournament must complete NCSI Background Check (https://usabadminton.quickapp.pro/positions) and SafeSport Training (https://safesporttrained.org/?KeyName=NGBUSAB-5ttlX9) as required by the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee.**

Other Criteria

- All players competing in USAB Sanctioned Junior Tournaments are responsible to notify the USAB National Office – and the Tournament Director, of the event if they have represented a foreign country or countries. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in the player being disqualified from USAB Sanctioned Tournaments.

10. Entry & Deadline

- Entries must be made online at tournamentsoftware.com and full payment must be made through Stripe by (December 10, 2026) 11:59 AM PST (ONE MINUTE BEFORE NOON).
    - LATE ENTRIES and other forms of entry WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.
    - Do **NOT** wait until the last minute to sign up. Make your entry as soon as possible in case technical issues arise. Email the Tournament Director, Referee, and USA Badminton if you need assistance.
- Before you enter, ensure that your USA Badminton membership has not expired. USAB reserves the right to not accept entries for players that do not have a current unexpired USAB membership.
    - Ensure your member ID in TournamentSoftware matches your USAB membership ID.

Valid Entry

For the entry to be valid, make sure that the following are met:

- The player is signed up through www.tournamentsoftware.com, they have a current unexpired USA Badminton membership, and their TournamentSoftware member ID matches their USA Badminton membership ID.
- The player has paid all the entry fees by December 10, 2026 11:59 AM PST (ONE MINUTE BEFORE NOON) through Stripe. This includes instances where a player enters different events at different times – all the events must be fully paid for by the entry deadline, otherwise events not paid for will be cancelled. A player will only be permitted to play in events that have been fully paid.
- If the player has signed up for a Doubles and/or a Mixed Doubles event, make sure that the partner(s) are informed, and they sign up and pay the entry fees. Be sure to enter your partner's name next to the event selected. If you are requesting a partner, select "Partner wanted".

11. Entry Fees & Refund

USAB Junior Ranking Tournament Fee and Refund					
Tournament	Max Event Per Player	Entry Fee	Refund 1 event	Refund 2 Events	Refund 3 events
Open Local Championships (OLC)	1	$75	$70	N/A	N/A
	2	$75	N/A	$70	N/A
	3	$95	$20	$20	$90

Additional fee: $15 Technical Official/Admin fee per person. Must be paid with your entry fees on www.tournamentsoftware.com. This fee is refundable when a refund is issued for all events.

12. Multiple Tournament Sign Up

- Note that there may be multiple tournaments held during the same timeframe (with overlapping days). Players are prohibited from registering in multiple tournaments with overlapping days.
- Players that sign up for multiple tournaments with overlapping days will be disqualified from the tournaments entered and will not be eligible for refund of entry fees. USA Badminton and the host are not responsible for player disqualification due to signing up for overlapping tournaments.

13. Key Dates

December 10, 2026	Current ID documents (Passport ID page, Permanent Resident Card, long term visa *etc.*) should be uploaded to https://www.dropbox.com/request/yr1yvhryfnuehzf5d0xb or emailed to Merrick.Nila@usabadminton.org this date.
December 10, 2026	Entry must be made online at www.tournamentsoftware.com and paid via Stripe link as published on the event, by 11:59 AM (ONE MINUTE BEFORE NOON) PST. LATE ENTRIES, any other forms of entry and payment WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.
December 10, 2026	Withdrawals by entry deadline **December 10, 2026** 11:59 AM (ONE MINUTE BEFORE NOON) PST will have entry fees refunded. However, processing fees by Stripe are non-refundable
December 10, 2026	Coaching credentials application must be applied by this deadline. Any coaching pass submissions past this date will be subject to a late fee. See Section 20 for more details. Click this link for more information:https://usabadminton.org/coaching/
December 14, 2026	Players on the reserve list will be informed
December 15, 2026	Draws posted by this date on www.tournamentsoftware.com

14. Withdrawals / Cancellations

- No refund after the entry deadline of December 10, 2026 11:59 AM PST (ONE MINUTE BEFORE NOON). Refunds will be processed via Stripe.

On Time Withdrawals (Withdrawal by entry deadline)

- Players who withdraw on www.tournamentsoftware.com by the entry deadline December 10, 2026 11:59 AM PST (ONEMINUTE BEFORE NOON) will have their entry fees refunded. The following persons must be notified of the withdrawal by email:
    - Tournament Director: TBD – Email:
    - Referee: TBD – Email:

Late Withdrawals (Withdrawal after entry deadline)

- For withdrawals made after the entry deadline December 10, 2026 11:59 AM PST (ONE MINUTE BEFORE NOON) due to whatever reason, the entry fees and tournament processing fee will not be refunded.
- The withdrawing player's parents must email:
    - Tournament Director: TBD – Email:
    - Referee: TBD – Email:

Event or Tournament Cancellation

- If an individual event(s) *e.g.,* U15 BS within a tournament is cancelled due to lack of entries *etc.*, or if several event(s) are cancelled or if the whole tournament is cancelled due to factors beyond the control of USAB *e.g.,* bad weather, lack of overall entries, then the entry fee will be refunded as per Section 11.
- The refund will be the responsibility of the Tournament Director and/or USAB.

15. Draw & Seeding

Seeding will be done per the Junior Rankings as of November 2026 or an updated ranking as of December 1, 2026, if available, even if the rankings are incomplete or contain errors. The draw will be conducted by the Referee or by his/her designee.

16. Schedule

Date	Time	Tournament Phase	Events
Saturday December 19, 2026	9:00 am – 9:00 pm	Tournament Play	All
Sunday December 20, 2026	8:30 am – 4:00 pm	Tournament Play	All

All players in all events must be available for all the tournament hours. Plan your flights accordingly!

17. Conditions of Play

- Junior tournament grade shuttles will be used throughout the tournament.
- Matches will be the best of 3 games to 15 points in rally-scoring format.
- A player not ready to play 10 minutes after his/her match is called may be defaulted.
- Acceptable badminton clothing must be worn by players and coaches during a match. Doubles partners are encouraged to wear matching colors.
- Entry fees will not be eligible for refund if the withdrawal occurs after December 10, 2026 11:59 AM PST (ONE MINUTE BEFORE NOON) and is not accompanied by a medical certificate.
- The Tournament Processing Fee is non-refundable.
- The tournament organizers in consultation with the JAG, TOAG, and USAB reserve the right to change any of the above conditions.

18. Shuttlecocks

- YONEX Aeroclear 30 is the official shuttlecock. If those shuttlecocks are not available, comparable shuttlecocks will be used.

19. Line Judging

- It is mandatory for all players to line judge following the end of each of their matches as follows:
  - The winning pair of every Doubles match (mixed or same gender) shall line judge for the next match
  - Both players of a Singles match shall line judge for the next match
  - Players must not leave their line judge duty even if their next match has been called. Player(s) will not be defaulted if they are doing their line judge duty.
- Players may arrange for an adult (accredited by USAB) to substitute for them in their line judging duty. It is the player's responsibility to arrange for any such substitution. This arrangement must be made prior to the start of the player's match such that there is no delay in the start of the following match.
- Any adult (over 18 years old at any time during the tournament) that plans to substitute for line judging must register prior to the tournament start through the JotForm (https://form.jotform.com/211716316497055).

20. Coaching Pass (Credentials)

- USAB only recognizes coaches certified through our USAB/BWF coaching pathway. At USAB sanctioned tournaments, it is mandatory that all coaches have current Coaching Passes, issued annually by USAB.
- **Coaching Pass applications for this tournament must be submitted by (December 10, 2026) 11:59 AM PST (ONE MINUTE BEFORE NOON) to be considered timely.** A timely Coaching Pass application consists of:
  - BWF-1 online component course certificate of completion (sent to CoachingPass@usabadminton.org)
  - Active, unexpired USAB membership
  - Current, unexpired SafeSport training (must do a refresher course 1 year after previous completion date)
  - Current, unexpired background check cleared by December 14, 2026 (good for two years after original clear date)
  - Signed Coaching Code of Conduct (link in Coaching Pass Application Jotform)
  - Submitted Coaching Pass Application at https://form.jotform.com/251434481186155
  - Passport-style photo uploaded to Club Locker for the Coaching Pass
- **Coaching Pass applications for this tournament submitted after the deadline (December 10, 2026) will be subject to a $200 late fee.** Late applications will be processed up until 5 days prior to the tournament start. An application submitted 3 days before the tournament must have all the requirements of the application completed. If the background check is not already

cleared by that date, the Coaching Pass will not be able to be processed late.

- Only certified BWF/USAB coaches with a valid Coaching Pass will be allowed to coach and sit on the coaches' chair. Someone without a valid Coaching Pass for the 2026-2027 season will not be allowed to coach at the event.
    - 2 coaches per side are allowed on court during a match
    - Persons not sitting in the coaches' chair are not allowed to coach during a match.
    - Coaches MUST visibly wear the approved USAB Coaching Pass at all times.
    - The Coaching Pass CANNOT be shared with others. Anyone caught sharing the Coaching Pass and/or using a fake Coaching Pass will have their Coaching Pass confiscated by the tournament referee or technical officials.

For more information on how to become a coach, please go to https://usabadminton.org/coaching/.

21. Awards

Medals shall be awarded to finalists and semi-finalists in each main draw, and to all Consolation winners if consolation is played.

22. Medical Insurance

- All players (whose USAB memberships are current) are covered by USAB insurance.
- Neither the host, nor USAB is responsible for medical expenses incurred during the competition.

23. T-Shirts

24. Official Hotel & Airport

SpringHill Suites by Marriott Raleigh Apex (five-minute drive from the Synergy Badminton Academy NC)
1100 Marco Drive, Apex, North Carolina 27502 USA
(919) 3350135

Book your group rate for 2026 Synergy NC South OLC

Start Date: Thursday, December 17, 2026

End Date: Monday, December 21, 2026

Booking cutoff date: Tuesday, December 1, 2026

Tournament special group rate:

- *SpringHill Suites by Marriott Raleigh Apex for **159.00 USD per night (subject to 13.25% tax)**, for a Double Room (2 beds). Incidentals will be charged at check-in.*
- *Onsite Amenities include: Complimentary Wi-Fi, Complimentary Parking, Complimentary Breakfast, Indoor Pool, Fitness Room*
- *Guest Rooms include: Trundle Beds, Fridge, Microwave, and Keurig*
- *The hotel room rates are subject to applicable state and local taxes (currently 13.25%) in effect at the time of check-out. Check-in time is 3:00 pm. Check-out time is 12:00 pm. Late check-outs can be negotiated based on availability.*

Official Airport: RDU

25. Indemnity: USA Badminton Waiver & Release of Liability

Note: This form must be read and signed before the participant is permitted to take part in event sessions. By signing this agreement, the participant affirms having read it. By submitting the online entry for the 2026 Synergy NC South OLC, the participant (and parent(s)/guardian(s) if participant is of minority age) affirms having read this document and agrees to be bound by its terms.

In consideration of my involvement at the 2026 Synergy NC South OLC Tournament under the auspices of USA Badminton and Synergy Badminton Academy, I acknowledge, appreciate, and agree that:

1. I risk bodily injury, including paralysis, dismemberment, disability, and death, and while particular rules of the sport, equipment, and discipline may reduce this risk, this risk of injury does exist, as well as the risk of damage to or loss of property.
2. I knowingly and freely assume all such risk; both known and unknown, even if arising from the negligence of the releasees or others.
3. I willingly agree to comply with the customary terms and conditions for participation. If, however, I observe any unusual or unnecessary hazard during my presence or participation or if I observe any concern in my readiness for participation, I will immediately bring such to the attention of the nearest official and refrain from participation; and

3a. I, for myself, and on behalf of my heirs, assigns, personal representatives and next of kin, hereby release, hold harmless and promise not to sue USA Badminton, the committee, their respective sponsors, or the respective officers, directors, volunteers, staff, sponsors and/or agents of any of them (collectively, the "releasees") with respect to any and all injury and loss arising from my participation, whether caused by the negligence of the releasees, the condition of the premises or otherwise, except that which is the result of gross negligence or wanton misconduct, to the fullest extent permitted by law. I give permission for emergency medical treatment to be administered as deemed appropriate. Included within the release above, I release and forever discharge the releasees from any claim whatsoever which arises or may hereafter arise on account of any first-aid treatment or other medical services rendered in connection with my participation.

4. I agree to be bound by the rules and regulations of the Badminton World Federation and those of USA Badminton and I hereby stipulate that I am eligible to play in the events for which I am applying and that I understand that the above mentioned make no representation or warranty with respect to the condition of the premises or the operation of the event.
5. I hereby grant to USA Badminton, its licensees and contractors, including photographers, all right, title and interest in and to any and all photographic images and video or audio recordings of whatever kind or type in any medium, made by or for USA Badminton during the event, including the right to film or videotape me during matches, narratives or personal interviews, or the right to comment thereon for any and all commercial, news or other purposes, together with the right to transfer or grant such rights to others, and to all royalties, proceeds and/or other benefits derived from such photographs and recordings, all without remuneration or compensation to me whatsoever.
6. I acknowledge that my participation may be conditioned upon my submission to drug testing and that the use of methods or substances prohibited by applicable anti-doping rules may subject me to penalties including, but not limited to, disqualification and suspension.
7. I accept and will follow all local directives and procedures established for the event including usage of documents for court entry that may be required locally in response to Covid-19 and/or USOPC's SafeSport regulations, and I acknowledge that violating these may result in my exclusion from the venue as decided by the Tournament Referee.
8. I consent to my child receiving treatment from the AT/PT. Any treatment will be rendered in an observable, interruptible manner or a minimum of two adults will be present.
9. I give my express written permission for myself or my child to participate in the tournament and agree to follow the rules of the event. If I am signing and submitting this consent electronically, I acknowledge that my electronic signature shall have the same validity, force and effect as if I signed this consent by hand.

I have read this Release of Liability and Waiver Agreement, fully and understand the terms, understand that I have given up substantial rights by signing it, and sign it freely and voluntarily without any inducement. And I further acknowledge by their presence that I am aware that DRUG TESTING may occur at this event.

Participant's Signature | Date of Signature

Participants Name (Printed) | USAB Membership # | USAB Membership Exp. Date

For Participants of Minority Age

This is to certify that I/We as parent(s)/ guardian(s) with legal responsibility for this participant, do consent and agree not only to his/her release, but also for myself, ourselves and my/our child involvement as stated above, EVEN IF ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASEES, to the fullest extent permitted by law.

Parent(s)'s/ Guardian(s)'s Signature(s) | Date of Signature