



**NAGALAND
PICKLEBALL
ASSOCIATION**

Corporate Identity Number : U85410NL2025NPL014059
Under the Companies Act, 2013 (18 of 2013)
Registered Office : PURANA BAZAR LAKE VIEW, JORPUKHURI
DIMAPUR, Dimapur : 797112, Nagaland
Mobile : +91 87875 72753
E-mail : nagalandpickleballassociation@gmail.com

PRESS RELEASE

Nagaland Pickleball Association Announces Inaugural Mithun Rhino Pickleball Championship & State Trials

Kohima / Dimapur | March 2026

The Nagaland Pickleball Association (NPA) is pleased to announce the successful conclusion of the Team Nagaland Trials, held on 7th March 2026 at The Fitness House, Dimapur. The trials were conducted to officially select athletes who will represent Nagaland at the Inaugural Mithun Rhino Pickleball Championship 2026, an interstate championship between Nagaland and Assam, scheduled for 14–15 March 2026 at The Fitness House, Dimapur.

This landmark event is part of the broader vision of the State Government and the NPA to strengthen sports diplomacy, create meaningful sporting exchanges, and build stronger relationships between athletes, associations, and communities across states. It reflects a growing commitment to using sport as a platform for unity, youth engagement, regional friendship, and long-term people-to-people connection.

The Nagaland Pickleball Association aspires not only to build competitive excellence in pickleball, but also to promote sportsmanship, unity, and oneness through sport. Through this initiative, the Association seeks to foster better relationships with sportspersons across the nation, encourage cross-border sporting collaboration, inspire the next generation of athletes, and position Nagaland as an emerging destination for modern and inclusive sporting events.

This championship also stands as a celebration of youth, energy, discipline, and aspiration. It is an effort to promote pickleball as a fast-growing sport in Nagaland and the Northeast, while creating new opportunities for participation, visibility, and excellence. Beyond competition, the event aims to encourage healthy lifestyles, community pride, youth development, gender inclusion, and a spirit of shared growth through sport.

The Nagaland Pickleball Association further believes that strong collaboration and meaningful partnerships are central to the future of sport in the region. Events such as the Mithun Rhino Pickleball Championship are made possible through the coming together of associations, athletes, venue partners, supporters, and stakeholders who share a common vision. NPA looks forward to continued partnerships that will strengthen infrastructure, expand participation, elevate standards of competition, and build a sustainable sporting ecosystem for Nagaland and beyond.

Event Factsheet

Inaugural Mithun Rhino Pickleball Championship 2026

Dates: 14th–15th March 2026

Venue: The Fitness House (TFH), Dimapur

Start Time: 12:00 PM onwards on 14th March 2026

Finals Timing: To be announced at a later date

Fixture: Nagaland vs Assam Interstate Championship

The Nagaland Pickleball Association (NPA) extends its heartfelt gratitude to The Fitness House, Dimapur, for graciously hosting the Team Nagaland Trials. Your world-class facilities, warm hospitality, and unwavering support made this event possible and set the perfect stage for our athletes to showcase their very best. The NPA looks forward to a continued partnership as we work together to grow the sport of pickleball across Nagaland and the Northeast.

The NPA also congratulates every athlete who stepped onto the court on 7th March 2026. Your dedication, courage, discipline, and commitment to the sport are what make events like this meaningful. Whether selected for Team Nagaland or not, every participant has displayed the heart of a champion, and the Association remains proud of each and every one of you. This is only the beginning of a bigger journey for pickleball in the state.

The selection of Team Nagaland was determined through two pathways. Direct entry spots were awarded to champions from the previous tournament in recognition of their outstanding performance, while all remaining positions were determined through the official Team Nagaland Trials held on 7th March 2026. The Nagaland team has begun its training session under the guidance of the NPA.

Issued by:
Nagaland Pickleball Association
09-03-2026

Nagaland Team Manager: Nisuka Khulu

MEN'S INTERSTATE TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

1. Vilasier Khate (Team Captain)
2. Megotsolie Khate
3. David Murry
4. Tonoto Ayemi
5. Imsuren Longchar
6. Kabinlo Kent
7. Chuba Imsong
8. Imtinok Pongener
9. Nzamo Kikon (Reserve)
10. Zhaputso Khate (Reserve)
11. Ohito Awomi (Reserve)

WOMEN'S INTERSTATE TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

1. Eyeni Yanthan (Team Captain)
2. Lentina Longkumer
3. Chubasenla Aier
4. Elona Ayemi
5. Yangtila Ozukum
6. Imtila Pongen

VETERANS INTERSTATE TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

1. Kuchi R Zeliang (Team Captain)
2. Kenei Miachieo
3. Lhouvi Punyu
4. Abu Metha
5. Vikho Khate
6. Ringo Odyuo
7. Rohan Abraham (Reserve)
8. Chichan Shitiri (Reserve)
9. Mongden Jamir (Reserve)

Mixed Doubles

1. Chubasenla Aier (Team Captain)
2. Kabinlo Kent
3. Imtinok Pongener
4. Megotsolie Khate
5. Menuovi Kire
6. Eyeni Yanthan
7. Imtila Pongen
8. Lentina Longkumer

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OPEN CATEGORIES

Mixed Doubles

- Imtinok Pongener / Ejeni Yanthan
- Megotsolie Khate / Imtila Pongen
- Menuovi Kire / Lentina Longkumer
- Chubasenla Aier / Kabinlo Kent

Men's Singles

- Vilasier Khate
- Megotsolie Khate
- Nzamo Kikon
- Zhaputso Khate

Men's Doubles

- David Murry / Tonoto Ayemi
- Kabinlo Kent / Imsuren Longchar
- Chuba Imsong / Imtinok Pongener
- Nzamo Kikon / Ohito Awomi

Women's Doubles

- Chubasenla Aier / Ejeni Yanthan
- Lentina Longkumer / Elona Ayemi
- Yangtila Ozukum / Imtila Pongen

Veterans Doubles 40+

- Kenei Miachieo / Lhouvi Punyu
- Abu Metha / Vikho Khate
- Kuchi R Zeliang / Ringo Odyuo
- Chichan Shitiri / Mongden Jamir
- Rohan Abraham (Substitute)

Veterans Doubles 45+

- Abu Metha / Kenei Miachieo

The Nagaland Pickleball Association remains committed to building a stronger sporting culture in the state through vision, partnership, and opportunity. With the support of athletes, families, institutions, partners, and the larger sporting community, NPA believes this championship can become an important platform for interstate friendship, competitive excellence, and the continued rise of pickleball in Nagaland.

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