

### Court Designations

**WHERE DO I PLAY?**

### EVENTS

February/March

Peace, Love, and Pickleball Mixer - Feb 22nd

General Meeting/Elections - February 27th.

**You must be a member to attend any Club sponsored event.**

### What's New

**PICKLEBALL RULE CHANGES YOU NEED TO KNOW!**

# SCPB NEWSLETTER

## 2024 Year at a Glance



*Rock and Roll Dinner Dance*



*October Mixer*



*Newbies Luncheon*



*After the Couples Ladder*



*First Summer Ladder*

## WHERE DO I PLAY?

Last year our first Focus Group met and was extremely helpful in organizing our pickleball guidelines which included court designations, level of ability guidelines, and court rotations. Again, this year, a second Focus Group met and discussed current issues and future trends.

Court Designations continue to be an issue. Players are disregarding the level postings identifying courts as Advanced, Intermediate and Novice. This is again creating frustration for all level of players. Court atmosphere can improve if everyone follows the guidelines.

### Courts 1-2

**Advanced: (Level 3.75 - 4.0):** Anticipates opponents shots resulting in good court position, primarily plays offensively, controls and places serves and return of serves to best advantage, puts strategy into play in the game, consistently varies shots to create a competitive advantage, works and moves well with partner – easily switches court positions when required, very comfortable playing at the non-volley zone. Works with partner to control the line, keeping opponents back and driving them off-line, can block volleys directed at them, has good footwork and moves laterally, backward and forward with ease.

### Courts 3-4

**Advanced Intermediate: (Level 3.5 + ).** This player demonstrates a broad knowledge of the rules of the game, gets high majority of serves in, is able to serve and return serves deep, hits to the weak side of opponent often, demonstrates more strategies of playing during games. This player works better with partners in communicating, covering court, moving to net. With varying consistency executes: lobs, forehand/backhand ground strokes, overheads, net volleys, and sustained dinking, starting to use drop shots in order to get to the net, hits fewer balls out of bounds or in the net and is able to sustain dinking in the game. May be playing in tournaments at 3.5.

### Courts 5-12

**Intermediate/Novice: (Level 2.5 - 3.5).** A player working to keep the serve and serve receive deep, moves quickly towards the non-volley zone when opportunity is there. Tries to make flatter returns (where appropriate). This player is more aware of their partner's position on the court and moving more as a team, is developing more power in shots, beginning to attempt lobs with some success, can volley at the net to some degree, and attempts to sustain the dink shot. May be playing in tournaments at 3.0 to 3.5.

## How Do I Know What Level I Am?

You can use rating systems like the USA Pickleball Tournament Player Ratings (UTPR) or the Dynamic Universal Pickleball Rating (DUPR) to determine your pickleball skill level.

Or, you can use this link to self-rate yourself.

<https://usapickleball.org/tournaments/tournament-player-ratings/player-skill-rating-definitions/>

Or you can read the posted level guidelines installed on our courts. This means you have to be honest with yourself when assessing your skills.

## Some new pickleball rules for 2025 include:

- **Serving**  
Players can toss the ball with their paddle, but they can't add spin to it. This rule applies to drop serves as well.
- **Volley definition**  
A volley now begins when the paddle hits the ball, not when the back swing starts. This means that if a player's paddle scrapes the ground before hitting the ball, the rally continues.
- **Non-volley zone**  
Players can touch the non-volley zone (NVZ) before hitting the volley without it being considered a fault.
- **Distractions**  
A fault can be called if a team distracts a player before they prepare to hit the ball. This includes distracting the player's mental concentration, physical preparation, or the actual act of hitting the ball.
- **Fault resolution**  
The player who allegedly committed a fault makes the final decision on how to resolve it.

The USA Pickleball rulebook has a revision document that can help players understand the rule changes.

## TIDBITS:

Please check the lost and found box if you are missing any clothing, etc.

Missing a paddle? We have several with no names. Ask a Board member if you are and give us a description. We will be happy look in our court container. Putting your name on your paddle is a good idea!

In an effort to “ensure fair play and maintain the sport’s competitive balance,” [USAP introduced the PBCoR test](#) late last year. The first round of paddles to fail the new test was announced on Dec 27th. The list includes:

- JOOLA: Perseus 14mm MOD TA-15
- JOOLA: Perseus 16mm MOD TA-15
- Gearbox: Pro Power Elongated
- ProKennex: Black Ace Ovation
- ProKennex: Black Ace Pro
- ProKennex: Black Ace LG
- ProKennex: Black Ace XF

The paddles will not be de-listed immediately. Paddle manufacturers and players will have 6 months to react to the news. JOOLA has already [released a statement](#) on their plans moving forward