

PebbleCreek Pickleball Club Newsletter

November 2022

New Courts Update

- The trenching underground utilities have started. The day I drove out it was a very small crew working one excavator.
- Surveyor stakes have been placed to mark trench lines and building locations
- The underground work is expected to take up to 3 months.
- The above groundwork (courts, concrete, fences) was sent out for new bids.
- It has been previously stated (by the PC Operations Liaison to RCI) that the best hopes for completion would be in the 2nd quarter of the year (April-June).

The Annual Membership Meeting and Budget Adoption is on November 17 in the Eagles Nest Ballroom 6:00 PM. Along with adopting a budget for 2023 there will be discussions on several Club business items. Again, if members want to include any expenditure or discussion item for the meeting, please get the information/item to Club President, Nancy Popenhagen or Club Treasurer, Sharon Hadley no later than November 13.

Friday Fun

On November 11th the first of several Friday No Host Socials will be held. A no host social is very casual and open to all members -- No Reservations Needed. Everyone brings their own refreshments and food to share with others. Show up around 4:30 PM and our MC, Sheri Sears, will help direct play on courts 4, 5, 9-12 for a fun time of socializing and pickleballing.

Replay Review

Now that the Parity Team has placed members into new color groups, it is time to look back and remember why we did this.

Last May the rating committee approached the Board and expressed concern the rating system was not working. Since this was another failure of rating systems the discussion moved to WHY DO WE HAVE/NEED RATINGS? We identified three primary uses for ratings, Round Robins, Skills and Drills and Drop-In Play.

Of these needs, Round Robins are the hardest to tackle and the Board took the following steps.

1. The Board scheduled listening opportunities for all members to give feedback.
2. The Board appointed players from all levels of the round robin to a task force called the Round Robin Initiative. This task force echoed many of the same opinions as heard in the listening sessions. The Task Force decided that a survey should be developed and sent to membership.
3. The survey was sent to all Club members in June (the complete results can still be found on our website under news).
4. The survey results were discussed by the Task Force and then Ratings Committee and the Board met to discuss the next steps.

Of the 613 members who replied, 67.9% said they participated in at least one round robin. The results showed the most important factor to members was to have parity of play in round robins. When asked what the best way to determine groupings, 58.9% thought observations of play through the round robin levels, by Club evaluators, was the best method. Using these results the Board appointed the new Parity Leadership team to replace club ratings.





The Board gave the directive to the Parity Team that round robins should focus on two elements, keeping the round robins fun and to focus on parity of play. Round Robins are not meant to duplicate or replace individual groups that play.

Early discussions considered only assigning a color group for players who participated round robin, however, the concern was:

- Those players who did not play last year but want to play this year wouldn't be able to sign up.
- We would then have two separate grouping systems, and part of the goal was to get away from the Club rating system.

The Board believes that continuing to use the USAP rating numbers is not meeting the needs of our Club.

So the Parity Team started on the huge task of trying to

best place each and every member into a color group. They sorted every member by rating group and then attempted to divide all players at a level into one, two or three sub groups. If the team could not place a name, face and skill to a specific player, the team started that player in the lower levels of the new color group. The Parity Team continues to acknowledge that they did not recognize every member of the Club.

Toys for Goodyear Kids Social

By Brenda Weide

We are excited to invite you to our annual Pebble Creek Pickleball Toy Drive for needy children in the community of Goodyear. This will be a fun event for our entire PebbleCreek neighborhood. Everyone who donates an unwrapped toy will be given a raffle ticket for a grand prize (if you are not able to get out to buy a toy we will accept cash or check). We will have a split the pot raffle, breakfast (burritos, chips & salsa, fruit, muffins), Santa will be visiting, Christmas music, Pickleball games and skills - Come challenge a Pro player, see how many serves you can get in a row, test your dinking skills, become King or Queen of the court, have fun with competitive and social play or just watch those that are playing in sunny Arizona.

Last year we were able to fill the toy train and we'd like to do that again this year. Each year there are many children who do not have toys for their Christmas celebration. Christmas is a great time to help those children. This year is an exceptionally hard year and we'd like to support families who need our help. We are helping the City of Goodyear provide a Christmas tree with ornaments, Christmas dinner and toys/clothes that a family needs this year. We'd love to have your support. Watch for more information to come for the December 3, Toy Drive.

Color Groups Rollout

Except for a substantial hiccup to begin, the new color group rollout went well. We attribute this to two factors; first the huge undertaking and work that the new Parity Team Leadership completed. And second, to the willingness of our wonderful Club members to give this new approach a try. Is everything and every placement perfect...No. Are there ways to have the placements re-evaluated...Yes. This was the FIRST step in this new system rollout.

Hiccup: after working with Court Reserve for approximately five weeks to have one mass import of all the new colors and archiving the numerical ratings, we found out the Wednesday NIGHT prior to the Friday Color Group roll-out that this was not going to happen. Oh darn! So, Sharon Hadley, Jeff Antrican, Theresa Carter, Jennifer Tamparo, and Terri Kelly stepped up to an emergency call to help us input all 1554+/- names into the system manually, one at a time. As we were inputting the new groups and archiving the current ratings I counted at least eight separate clicks per person. A BIG thank you to these individuals, who accomplished this in one day.



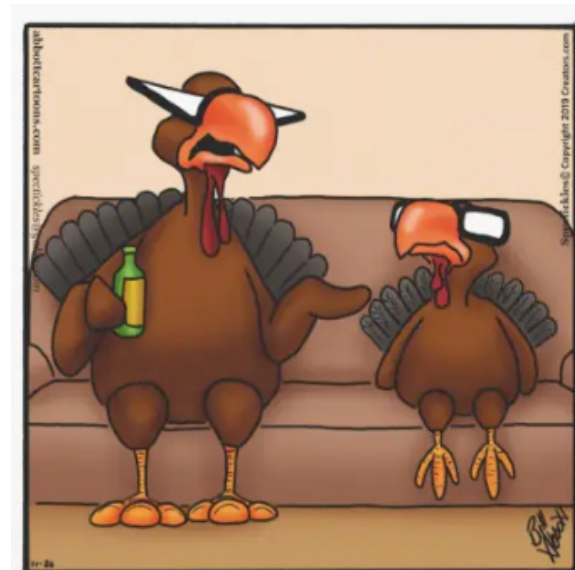
Limitations of Color Groups or Any Rating System

Huge Undertaking: How did the Parity Team classify 1,554 players into color groups?

1. They started with the old numeric rating system
2. If people played in Round Robins last winter they asked several players in each rating level to rate the players they knew as high, medium and low. If they did not know a player or the player did not play in Round Robins those players were added to the low group, as they were unknown to the Parity Team.
3. Therefore we implore people who think they are misplaced to drop us an email at rr@pcpickleball.org, explain your reasoning and we will come to reassess your placement.
4. For players' known and unknown to the Parity Team who are upset by their color placement, below is an illustration that recognizes why people feel misplaced.
 - a. Imagine we could accurately rank every all-1550 members in the club from top to bottom. That would result in two lists from approximately 1 to 775 for both men and women. Now we need to create nine groups of "comparable" players. For the men the cut between Green and Indigo is at the 84th player. The cut between Indigo and Maroon is at the 145th player. There is no doubt the 146th player is comparable with the 145th player. In fact, most players are comparable with say ten players above and below them. But the 145th player is likely not quite comparable with the 85th player at the top of Indigo.
5. Here is the unsolvable problem: There is no escaping these truths whether we are using colors or ratings:
 - a. The top 5-10% of players at the top of each group feel they absolutely belong in the next group.
 - b. As new players are moved to a higher group, the better players in the new group may not find them comparable.
 - c. As soon as we move five people up to a new group the next five people in line now want to move up too.
 - d. Even if we could rank every member accurately, no matter where we draw the line, we will always have these issues.
6. The Parity Team has tried to error on the side of placing people to low with the reasoning it is kinder to move people up than move people down, which still may need to happen. Our Club is big, and it is impossible to put a name, face and playing ability to each member. There are hundreds of players unknown to the Parity Team as only half of the membership played in any Round Robins. If you are one of the hundreds of players that automatically were placed in a lower level AND you want to play in round robins with comparable players, please contact the Parity Team and follow our procedure to be reassessed. If you belong in a different color, don't suffer in silence. We need everyone to do their part, by contacting the Parity Team if they think they are in the wrong group, for this system to accomplish its goal of fun, close games at each level.

Willingness of Club Members to give it a try. So many of you have been gracious and absolutely willing to give this new system a try and the Board and Parity Team thank you for the encouraging words of support.

We've also heard there are many upset people who are very disappointed with how the new Color Groups were determined. Given the Parity Team are all volunteers, the enormity of the undertaking and the hundreds of hours that have been put toward this new system, we ask your understanding that we know it is imperfect, we regret any hurt our methodology caused people and we hope each person thinking they are misplaced, give their group a try and if they still believe they are misplaced let us know. Reassessment does NOT guarantee a player will be moved: the Parity Team is looking for players who are significantly better than the others in the round robin.



"It's not 'axed.' It's 'asked.' Your grandmother wants me to be asked before attending the farmers Thanksgiving dinner.

Q & A

- 1. What is the difference between Court Reserve and the Club website?** Court Reserve is for making reservations and our website pcpickleball.org is full of useful information including some great pickleball coaching videos.
- 2. Why isn't the TV or Ice machine fixed?** Both devices are waiting parts to arrive.
- 3. What do parking lot lines mean?**
 - The multi-stripped lines mean no parking.
 - The middle blue line means the parking spot is open to either golf carts or cars. The space is a bit snug for two golf carts so it may be helpful for one golf cart to park deep in the space and the other park more to the outside.



The Final 4

A great day of pickleball! Congratulations to all of the players and a HUGE thank you to all of the volunteer referees, first aid, check-in, record keepers, set up/break down, refreshments and others who make this such a fun event. A special thank you to Alex Potapoff for organizing the entire event!

The mixed medals winners are:

Gold	Silver	Bronze
Jo Comstock/Steve Manns	Dee Rochel/Howard Mendel	Kim Ebert/ Terry Long
Renee Salko/Howard Locker	Candy Rickard/Joe Sagorsky	Sharon Hadley/Gary Luber
Barb Wise/Bob Czajkowski	Wendy Langhals/Joe Slocum	Doreen Bowman/Norm Bowman
Anne Bisette/Marty Braden	Donna Tessmer/Dave Trimble	Peggy Geiger/Burt Geiger
Georgia Graeff/David Graeff	Pam Smith/Ron Bonnell	Jean O'Reiley/Ron Demshar
Kristin Diliberti/Peter Diliberti	Carolyn Keay/Marty Alto	J. Wittmus/Bill Saunders
Maureen Strachan/Steve Strachan	Heidi Monohan/Bryon Monohan	Mary Beth Calderone/Bill Dougherty
Teresa Bonnell/Din Chen	Debbie Schneider/Glenn Schneider	Trish McCracken/Doug McCracken
Becky Trimble/Jim Schoenen	Pam Leeming/Peter Rolliston	Virginia Coffee/Bruce Weintraub

Check out the PCPBC website picture gallery (pcpickleball.org) for pictures from the days tournament.



Color Group Reassessment

Round Robin Reassessment: After the first few weeks of round robins, if a player's game and point differential signals the player may be in the wrong color group that player should send an email to rr@pcpickleball.org. The email should include why they believe they have been misplaced and ask to be watched at the round robin. The Parity Team will begin for the first few weeks of round robins by observing all of the new color group round robins and particularly those individuals who believe they have been misidentified. Some of the things the Parity Team will be looking for:

- Is a player visibly better than the players they are playing against?
- Is the player responsible for winning a clear majority of points in which they are involved?
- Is the player playing to both opponents, or just the perceived weaker player?
- What is the win/lose outcome of the match and the point differential?

For those members who are not here to start the season, they will need to play in several round robins in their assigned color group and then, if appropriate, email the Parity Team. The Parity Team will inquire with the in-group observers prior to any observation.

Remember, round robins are meant to have fun with a variety of players at similar skill sets. These are not meant to replace groups of friends who play together through the Open Play and Drop-In courts.

Player Development 2022

By Bill Woods

The Board of Directors of the Pebble Creek Pickleball Club is committed to providing a comprehensive Player Development program. The 2022 Player Development schedule includes leveled group instruction, group introductory instruction and semi-private coaching.

Group instruction ("Skills and Strategies") begins at 2:45 PM on Sunday November 13, and is available to all PCPBC Club members. Kevin Hillstrom is the lead instructor for these sessions, which will encompass six separate topics. Each session will include both group instruction by Kevin as well as individual court practice time coached by an instructor. The program will be offered at three levels based on color groupings. This year we have enough volunteer instructors to offer up to ten courts for each session! Kevin's group lessons can be observed by anyone, but individual court lessons will be limited, so sign up on Court Reserve at 7:00 PM on the Sunday prior to the lesson to secure your place.

Group introductory instruction, coordinated by Beth Kelly, will be offered in smaller groups to Beginners (first time players wishing to understand what the buzz around pickleball is all about), Novice A and Novice B players. Novice B lessons require PCPB Club membership and a Court Reserve reservation. Intro and Novice A lessons are open to all Pebble Creek residents, so if you are asked, please direct people to the Club website pcpickleball.org. The registration for the Intro to Pickleball class is located on a clipboard in the green box outside of court 5.

Small group coaching in groups of 2 – 4 players (currently known as "Coaching for Courts") will continue when coaches are available. The goals of these sessions are to help players:

- Better understand court positioning
- Improve foot work to reduce unforced errors
- Determine best shot selections under various circumstances
- Identify personal weaknesses to make practice/drill sessions more productive.
- Put together a 5-minute warm-up on the court to improve game performance

These semi-private lessons currently request a donation toward our Club commitment toward the new court construction fund. These sessions require a reservation on Court Reserve. Simply locate an instructor of your choice and time that's convenient for your schedule and book it. Please remember to list the names of all the players who will be participating during the session.



"I don't think the turkey's going to be done on time. That's the dishwasher."

Drop-In

For those who play drop-in, we added the initials of the new color groups on the bottom of each drop-in sign. Players may ask why do we keep stressing on playing on your assigned court? Part of playing drop-in is a matter of playing well with others. If we tried to write scenario rules for every possibility, we would have to start by hanging the rules at the top of the 12-foot fence and the page would go all the way down to the ground. Our drop-in courts start at court 9 with mild play and progress up in skill to court 12 and when courts 2 & 3 are available those are our top courts. Court 2 is for the aqua, burgundy and green players WHEN there are 4 or more of that level there. Different levels of players have different skill sets and play different types of games. If this were not the case, we could have one box of all levels of players and simply rotate in groups of 4. We want every player to have enjoyable games and just like in round robins we believe most players enjoy games in which the final score is within 4 or 5 points of each other 11-7, 11-8. By identifying courts we hope to have comparable play and it also spreads out the paddles to various courts to help the wait-time between games.



Ramada stadium seating concrete was very successful. Railings will be added by the ramp and stairs. We are not adding any railings between the two levels of seating. Everyone will need to be very vigilant when in the area. Concrete



Save the Date

November

- 1 - Mixed Doubles Final 4
- 6 - Fall Fandango
- 11 - Friday 1st No-Host Social
- 16 - Board of Directors Open meeting
- 17 - General Membership Meeting

December

- 3 - Annual Toys for Goodyear Kids Social
- 8 - Women's Doubles Final 4
- 9 - Men's Doubles Final 4

There's
always
SOMETHING
TO BE
thankful
FOR



WHEN & WHERE TO PLAY

DROP-IN AND OPEN PLAY

The courts are open and available for play from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. Because we have 12 courts with lighting, players can choose to play early morning, during the day or after dark. All players can take advantage of Drop-In, and Open Play.

WHAT IS DROP-IN

Players new to pickleball should begin playing on court 9

Drop-In is where players of less than 4 come down and play with a variety of players. These courts are divided by ability so that all players have a fun game with other players at the same level.

The good news concerning Drop-In is that a player doesn't need to make pre-arranged plans with 3 other players, and the bad news is there needs to be 3 other players wanting to "drop-in" at the same time. The best time to Drop-In is early morning or early evening as that is when most players come to the courts.

TO PLAY DROP-IN

- Court priority first goes to the group that is identified on the gate for that level.
- The box on the fence is for play on that court. One box/one court.
- If a court is not in use, other drop-in players may use that court. At no time does an unused court become a permanent court for another level. Once there are 4 paddles waiting, from the identified level, the players on the court can finish their game, and then must give the court back to the identified level.
- If there are not enough players at drop-in to utilize all of the court, a group of 4 from Open Play may play one game and then leave. They must give the court back to the identified level if there are 4 paddles waiting.
- If there are not enough players at the teal/red level to play, we encourage those who are there to move to the purple court.
- When drop-in play is busy (paddles waiting at any box) there is no drilling/singles/coaching.

We know there are not enough courts, and we want to utilize the courts the best we can. If there are 6 players, 4 playing and 2 waiting, instead of leaving an empty court, another group can use the court ONE GAME AT A TIME. However, when there are enough players to use the court after the game is finished the identified level always gets the court back.

There are too many variables to explain each possible scenario. We appreciate everyone sharing and making play fun for everyone.

Please try to share drop-in courts as much as possible, or if there are only 4 players at one level, it is permissible for those 4 to play every other game with other groups.

DROP-IN COURTESIES & TIPS

Introduce yourself, letting everyone know if you are new to PebbleCreek.

WHAT IS OPEN PLAY

Our Open Play system allows pre-arranged groups of 4 to rotate in, as a group onto a court play one game and then rotate off. There are PODS (boxes) placed around our courts (on fence outside of courts 5, 13 and 20) and each POD has a specific set of courts to rotate players. Players at any level of play can take advantage of Open Play... it's for everyone.

TO PLAY OPEN PLAY

- Open Play is for 4 players only. Less than 4 should play in the Drop-In system.
- 4 players place their paddles in the box at the same time, when a court (in their POD) opens the next in line group moves to that open court.
- Play 1 game to 11, using traditional scoring, win by ONE.
- Please come off the court immediately when your game is finished.
- If there is a group of 5 or more players who want to play together, the 5th paddle must wait until the players come off the court to put their paddle in the queue. One player may not save a place in the box for the others to join.
- A group of 8, must wait until the 4 players who will be playing together can place their paddles in the box. Paddles cannot be rearranged or switched once they are in the box.
- When courts are full, drilling, ball machines and singles play is not allowed. We encourage these to take place anytime there are empty courts available and no paddles waiting. However, if 2 players are playing singles prior to the courts becoming full, they can finish their game.

NO RESERVABLE COURTS

At this time PebbleCreek pickleball does not have any courts that are reservable for individual play due to our shortage of courts for the number of players that want to play.