



ARIZONA PICKLEBALL PLAYERS LEAGUE

- Bringing Competitive Team Based League Pickleball Throughout Arizona -

APPL Frequently Asked Questions (General):

What is APPL? - The Arizona Pickleball Players League (APPL) is a statewide team-based pickleball league. It currently operates in the following regions: Southern Region (Tucson and surrounding southern Arizona area; Casa Grande Region (communities in the Casa Grande and surrounding area); East Valley Region (cities in the eastern Phoenix metro and surrounding area); West Valley Region (cities in the western Phoenix Metro and surrounding area) and the White Mountain Region (a summer league that includes Show Low, Pinetop, Lakeside and surrounding area). APPL is a nonprofit corporation led by a group of volunteers with years of experience in team-based league pickleball who want to make that experience available to players throughout Arizona.

Why was APPL formed? - APPL was formed to develop and introduce competitive team-based league pickleball to Arizona and eventually nationally. We believe there are thousands of players that would like to enjoy a low cost, organized, locally convenient and competitive pickleball experience that is open to all adults ages 18 years and above.

What is APPL's objective? - APPL's objective is to bring a standardized team-based league format to Arizona and eventually nationally as an alternative or addition to the existing singles or doubles tournament infrastructure.

What does "team-based" league pickleball mean? - Team-based league pickleball is a competition where several teams consisting of 6 or more players compete against other teams within the same skill level over a period of months for a championship using a standardized and structured format of play.

How many players are usually on a team? - It is common to have 10-12 players on your roster so you can have confidence that you can field 6 players when you have a match. On match day you will bring 6 players from your roster who will play against your opposing team's 6 players.

How Large is APPL? - APPL is statewide. It currently operates in the following regions: Southern Region (Tucson and surrounding southern Arizona area; Casa Grande Region (communities in the Casa Grande and surrounding area; East Valley Region (cities in the eastern Phoenix metro and surrounding area); West Valley Region (cities in the western Phoenix Metro and surrounding area) and the White Mountain Region (a summer league that includes Show Low, Pinetop, Lakeside and surrounding area).

How do I join the APPL? - You don't really "join" APPL. If you play on an APPL team there is a fee that you will pay when you register yourself on that team. If your club or community has indicated an interest to play in APPL you should contact your club APPL administrator and indicate your interest in being on a team. You can also form your own team. If you have a network of similar skilled players that enjoy playing together and they are interested in joining your team, you can register a team on the APPL website.

What levels of play are there? - APPL supports Gender and Mixed skill level flights in 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0 and 4.5/5.0+ increments depending on regional interest.

How much does it cost? - See the website for current cost information. The per player fee for the entire season will continue to be less than the cost to play in one sanctioned tournament.

How often would my team play? - That will vary depending on the number of teams participating in the various skill level flights. Ideally there would be 6 teams in each flight. There can be more and there might be less. There typically would be 8 to 12 matches per season (including state championship playoffs).

Where would I play? - That depends on the League Region. The Casa Grande Region plays at Dave White Regional Park in Casa Grande. The East Valley, West Valley and Southern Regions will play home and away matches at each team's home court venue. Home courts may be at city or county courts contracted through the appropriate officials (for example city of Phoenix Pecos Park courts, or Tucson's Udall Park, or Surprise Community Park, etc.) or club courts obtained through a community that have been approved for use for APPL matches. Visiting teams will travel to their opponent's home courts to play their matches. APPL attempts to reach agreements with various Public (City/County/Regional) and Private for profit venues in each region to make courts available for APPL matches, for a fee.

How long does a match take and how many courts are used? - Typically matches take about 2 hours to complete. Matches use 3 courts simultaneously. When possible we recommend reserving the 3 courts for 2.5 hours to allow for some warm up time. Two hours is the minimum time required.

How long has the league been playing? - The league has been in existence since 2012 and originally started out as the East Valley Interclub League (EVIL). The Arizona Pickleball Players League became incorporated as a nonprofit corporation in 2019. In 2022, 3900 players participated on over 300 teams in APPL leagues throughout Arizona.

How do I get on a team? - If you are a member of a community or club, you should ask your club's administration if they will be participating and, if so, who is in charge of putting teams together. You can also form your own team if you have a network of similar skill level friends who would be interested in enjoying team-based pickleball. In this case you would simply register your team when registration opens for a particular season. If you're not able to pull a team together and/or your club is not involved, a Player Seeking a Team form is on the APPL website which you can fill out to let captains know you are interested in joining a team.

Can I form my own team? How do I do that? - Yes you can. There is information on how to form and register your own team on the APPL website.

Do I have to be a member of a club to participate? - You do not have to be a member of a club to participate. Many clubs and communities form their own teams and prefer their teams be made up of club or community players but APPL does not require you to be a member of a club or a community to participate. Anyone can form a team if they can meet the requirements such as securing a venue for their home matches, having enough players, etc. The Casa Grande Region does have some additional conditions stemming from having all their matches played at Dave White Park. See the Casa Grande specific FAQs for more detail.

How is an APPL match played? - See the narrative below taken from the APPL Rules of Play.

Match Day Teams: On match day the captain will bring 6 players to play on 3 doubles teams. Line-ups identifying the doubles teams on the scoresheet will be exchanged prior to the start of the match after which they may not be changed. The 3 doubles team partners will stay together for that day's match unless substitutions are made (see substitution rules). Captains or their designees are required to be on-site at each match.

Match Process: To begin a match, the visiting teams choose serve, receive or side. Each doubles team will play 2 games to 11 (win by 2). Teams shall switch sides after the first game. At the end of the second games (first round), and the fourth games (second round), the visiting doubles teams switch courts to play the next home doubles team noted on the line-up/scoresheet. Therefore, on team match day, each doubles team will play 6 games (three rounds): 2 games against the opposing line 1 doubles team, 2 games against the line 2 team, and 2 games against the line 3 team. Two team points are awarded for each game won by a doubles team. If the losing team scores 6 or more points in a game they are awarded 1 team point. No team points are awarded for a score of 5 points or less. Whichever team earns the most team points in all the games played in a match, will be the winner of the match and will be awarded a win in their league skill group team standings.

Do I have to be a member of USA Pickleball to participate? - No, you do not need to be a member of USAP to participate in any of the APPL leagues. In addition, your APPL match results do not affect your UTPR rating if you have one.

Is there an age requirement? - The APPL Regional leagues' age requirement is 18 years and over. There are 2 age defined leagues (18+ and 55+) in each region in each division (Men's, Women's & Mixed).

1. Open Age League: All teams are not age restricted. Players must be 18 years or older by December 31st 2022.
2. 55+ League: Players must be 55 years or older during the calendar year of the league start. Note: For season 2023 see the grandfathering exception in the rules.
3. **Note:** The West Valley Region also has a 65+ league in each division. Players must be 65 years or older during the calendar year of the league start.
4. **Note:** The East Valley Interclub League (EVIL) is now included in the East Valley Region's 55+ league. Former EVIL players/teams should refer to the grandfathering exception in the rules.

When does the next season start? - APPL's Winter League seasons typically start the first week in January and end near the last week in March. The State Championships are typically held the first week in April. See the website for registration deadlines and other key dates. APPL's Summer White Mountain Region league typically starts early June and ends mid August.

Where can I get more information? - Visit the APPL website at: arizonapickleballplayersleague.org and click "Get Started" on the top menu. We have links to respond to common questions and a generic "Contact Us" button to respond to everything else. Or, reach out to one of the League Coordinators in the "Contact" section and they will be happy to help you.