

## What Is a Rating?

Player ratings are used to group players by ability levels so that players can compete in organized play and participate in clinics with other players of similar ability. Keep in mind that this will never be a perfect system, but it should improve a player's chances of having a more competitive and fun match.

For Sun City West Pickleball Club (SCWPC), a player rating is a numeric value from 2.0 through 5.0 that classifies a given player's pickleball skills and abilities. SCWPC player rating classifications are taken from the USAPA / IFP rating system. (See Skill Level Definitions.) Although SCWPC may use a player's USAPA rating for club purposes, SCWPC "Club" ratings are for club use only and are not reported to the USAPA. It is up to the individual to report a rating to the USAPA.

## Why Do I Need a Rating?

If you wish to participate in organized play such as Skill Level Round Robin Play or if you wish to participate in skill development clinics, a rating may be required to group you with players of a similar skill level

## Rating Types

**USAPA Rating:** This is a tournament rating assigned to the player by the USAPA. It is not a self rating or a club rating that a player has reported to the USAPA. Unless a member applies for and receives a higher Sun City West Pickleball Club Rating, a USAPA Tournament Rating will be a SCWPC members club rating, regardless of self-assessment or other factors.

**Tournament/Self Rating:** A tournament/self rating is a verifiable rating that a player has claimed for purposes of competing in two or more USAPA sanctioned tournaments in the preceding 12 months. A player may not change this rating simply by registering for a future tournament in a rating classification. Note that if a player has established play in two USAPA tournaments the SCWPC may also review their performance.

**Self-Rating:** This is a new member's critical self-evaluation based on the player's own assessment of his or her skills compared to the Skill Level Definitions published by the USAPA and modified for club use. Self-ratings 3.0 and over will require evaluation and confirmation in a rating evaluation session.

**SCWPC Rating:** This is a Club Rating established by the club based on an evaluation of the player relative to USAPA / IFP rating standards in a rating evaluation session. There are no SCWPC ratings higher than 4.0.

## Rating Changes

USAPA player rating is changed by the USAPA based on player performance in sanctioned tournament play.

SCWPC Club Rating Evaluation Session: A formal session conducted for the specific purpose of evaluating a player by the SCWPC Ratings Committee.

## How May I Obtain or Change a Rating?

- Establish a USAPA Rating through competition in USAPA Sanctioned tournaments. Notification from the USAPA to the player is sufficient to change a player rating.
- Establish competitive play in at least two USAPA sanctioned skills based (not age based bracket) tournaments in the preceding 12 months at a specific rating. Members who have met this requirement may request a rating change through the Ratings Committee. Proof of tournament participation will be required.
- Request an evaluation in a regularly scheduled club rating session. The appropriate Skill Assessment form will be completed and forwarded to the Ratings Committee.
- Only SCWPC members who meet the criteria for the 2.5 and above Skills Assessment may schedule a formal rating session.

## Club Ratings Appeals

Appeals regarding a rating should be directed via email to the Rating Chair, Deb Arnold, [Scwpickleballchair@gmail.com](mailto:Scwpickleballchair@gmail.com) Appeal emails should include sufficient detail and contact information.

## SCWPB Club Ratings Committee

The Ratings Committee is made up of: Deb Arnold Chair, Bruce Wray, Ken Holtz and Sandy Simon. Additional Club Members who meet specific criteria assist with performing rating sessions and committee assignments.

## Raters

Raters are club members who have established play at a level of 3.5 or higher and have been selected by the Ratings Committee to serve as raters. Raters are trained to assess and document player skills and to identify player strengths and weaknesses as they relate to specific skill levels. Raters may work alone, but more often they will work with a group of other raters. Raters will use specific guidelines and their own personal knowledge of the game to perform skill level assessments. Skill Level Assessments may be performed during games played specifically for assessment purposes.

## Rater Qualifications

- Current 3.5 or higher skill level rating or prior rating experience.
- Knowledge of minimum skills necessary for each level of play.
- Thorough knowledge of pickleball rules and strategies.
- Ability to objectively evaluate skills of others and to identify strengths and/or weaknesses relative to a specific rating category.
- Desire to help to develop other players.
- Willingness to commit time to evaluating other players.
- Ability to work with others to reach a consensus.
- Ability to tactfully communicate orally and in writing regarding skill evaluations.

## Ratings Evaluation Sessions

The Committee will schedule regular Ratings Evaluation sessions. Participants wishing to be evaluated will sign up for a session after reviewing skill level descriptions and completing a skill level assessment form. (To the best of their knowledge) The participant will then indicate on session registration the level they wish to be rated for and bring a completed skill self-assessment form.

- A rating session will consist of a Rater observing the player in 3 or more games and comparing the player performance to established rating criteria using a Skill Assessment form for the rating the player is seeking.
- Ideally there will be one rater for one - two participants.
- Games may be abbreviated for the purpose of expediting the process but each game should last approximately 6 minutes.
- The player should have previously read the Skill-Level-Definitions criteria and should be thoroughly familiar with the performance expectations.
- It is up to the player to demonstrate the various skills. Raters will not coach the players or ask to see specific shots, movement, tactics, etc.
- A player who has attended a rating session, may not sign up for a subsequent rating session for 90 days from the date of the first rating session. A player who has a compelling reason for an exception to this rule may make an appeal to the Club Ratings Chair (see Ratings Appeals above.)

Members who wish to be rated in a rating session may sign up using the SCW Pickleball Club Website, under the Ratings Tab.