



- Bringing Competitive Team-Based League Pickleball Throughout Arizona -

**East Valley Region Specific APPL FAQs: (please also refer to the General APPL FAQs)**

**What is APPL and what is the East Valley APPL Region?** - 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; West Valley Region (cities in the western Phoenix Metro and surrounding area); East Valley Region (cities in the eastern Phoenix metro and surrounding area) which is run by volunteers and players many of whom reside in the east Phoenix metro area.

**Who runs the League?** - 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.

**What does "team-based" league pickleball mean?** - Team-based league pickleball is a competition where several teams 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. Teams typically have a roster of about 10-12 players on their team. When two teams compete against each other on match day they each bring a line-up of 6 players who will compete that day.

**Do we only play teams in our region?** - Yes. Typically you would play 8 to 10 team matches during the regular season depending on how many other teams are in your flight skill level. The winners of each flight skill level would then compete against the winners of the other region's flight skill levels in a season-end playoffs for the State Championship.

**How many teams are in the East Valley Region?** - Last season, the East Valley region had over 50 teams registered in the Men's, Women's and Mixed APPL divisions. Flight skill levels offered were 3.0, 3.5, 4.0 and 4.5/5.0 in each division. The closure of Pecos Park due to the pandemic forced the season to be cancelled. This season the league will again offer Flight skill levels of 3.0, 3.5, 4.0 and 4.5/5.0 in Men's, Women's and Mixed divisions. Typically each Flight in each division might have 5-7 teams. Ordinarily there would be 50-70 teams in the region.

**What levels of play are there?** - Flight skill levels of 3.0, 3.5, 4.0 and 4.5/5.0 in each division (Men's, Women's and Mixed) are offered.

**How much does it cost?** - The fee for player registration is \$20 per season for each team the player participates on (ex. Men's 3.5 and Mixed 3.5). For those teams using city or county courts as their home courts, there will likely be an additional cost for court usage.

**Is there an age requirement?** - The APPL East Valley Regional league's age requirement is 18 years and over.

**Do I have to be a member of a club to participate?** - No. You can be on any team from any club. It is not unusual, especially in the first season, that teams will form that include players from different communities. Those teams simply need to have 1 home court venue. Typically most communities will look internally first and then look outside to fill their team rosters but that is not a requirement.

**Where and when would I play?** - In the East Valley Region, teams 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 Pecos 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 venues in each region to make courts available for APPL matches, for a fee, for teams without a community home court venue. Match days and times are defined by the home teams and posted on the schedule. Match play begins the first week in January.

***How do I get on a team?*** - If you are a member of a community club or private club contact your club administration to see if your club is participating and express your interest. Each club/community is asked to have a League Administrator who will help get your teams set up and work with APPL representatives to help get you started. You can also form a team independently if you wish. In that case you would likely need to arrange to have city or county courts available to play your home matches. APPL attempts to reach agreements with various venues in each region to make courts available for APPL matches, for a fee, for teams without a community home court venue. There is also a form 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. You would simply need a home court venue and some players (10-12 typically) on your team. You would then pre-register your team on the APPL East Valley Region website.

***Where can I get more information?*** - A Lot of information applies to all the APPL regions. Please read the General APPL FAQs for more information. You can find that, and other information, on the APPL website: [arizonapickleballplayersleague.org](http://arizonapickleballplayersleague.org). You can also email [info@arizonapickleballplayersleague.org](mailto:info@arizonapickleballplayersleague.org) with specific questions or contact one of the League Coordinators in the Contacts section and they will be happy to help you.

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