



- Bringing Competitive Team Based League Pickleball Throughout Arizona -

APPL Frequently Asked Questions:

What is APPL? - APPL stands for the Arizona Pickleball Players 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.

Why was APPL formed? - APPL was formed to develop and introduce competitive league pickleball to Arizona and eventually nationally. We believe there are thousands of players that would like to enjoy a low cost, organized, 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.

How do I join the APPL? - You don't really "join" APPL. If you play on an APPL team there is a team registration fee that you will likely share in the cost and you will sign a waiver. 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. You can subscribe to APPL through the website: arizonapickleballplayersleague.org which will keep you up to date on all that's going on in the league.

What levels of play are there? - In Season 2021 the East Valley and Casa Grande Regional leagues have Men's, Women's and Mixed Divisions with levels from beginners through advanced. Skill groups are: 3.0, 3.5, 4.0 and 4.5/5.0+. The West Valley and Southern Arizona Regional Leagues have Men's and Women's Divisions and will offer Mixed in Season 2022.

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 groups. Ideally there would be 6 teams in each skill group. There can be more. There typically would be 8 to 12 matches per season (including regional playoffs).

Where would I play? - That depends on the League Region. The Casa Grande Region plays at Dave White 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. That may be at city courts obtained through a city (for example city of Phoenix Pecos Park courts) or club courts obtained through a community depending on the team's home court selections. Visiting teams will travel to their opponent's home courts to play their matches. Discussions are being held with other venues in the new West Valley Region and Southern Region to make courts available for APPL matches as well.

How long has the league been playing? - One of the regional leagues within APPL (EVIL) is entering its 9th season. The APPL format was piloted successfully in 2019 and completed its first season in 2020. Last year 95 teams consisting of over 1100 players participated in APPL in 2 regions. The Casa Grande Region (SAPPL) and the East Valley Region (RAPPL and EVIL). We are adding the Southern Region (Tucson area) and the West Valley Region (Surprise, Goodyear, Buckeye, etc.) this year.

How do I get on a team? - This is a team-based league so getting on a team will vary depending on the different regional leagues. A form is on the APPL website which you can fill out to let captains know you are interested in joining a team. In addition, if you are a member of a community or club, you should ask your club's administration if they will be participating.

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? - Depending on the Regional League you are interested in (East Valley, Casa Grande, West Valley or Southern) you may or may not need to be a member of a club or community to participate. See the APPL website for each Regional League's requirements.

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 expected to be on-site at each match.

Match Process: To begin a match, the visiting teams choose serve, receive or end. 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. 2 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 USAPA 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 Regional leagues age requirement is 18 years and over with the exception of the EVIL Regional league which remains 50+.

When does the next season start? - APPL seasons start the first week in January and end the last week in March. See the website for registration deadlines and other key dates.

Where can I get more information? - The APPL website is: arizonapickleballplayersleague.org . There you can find more detailed information. You can also email 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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