



- 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 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, 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 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)

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 pre-register a team on the APPL website.

How many players are usually on a team? - On match day you will bring 6 players from your roster who will play against your opposing team's 6 players. 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.

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 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. Home courts may be at city or county courts contracted through the appropriate officials (for example city of Phoenix Pecos Park courts, or Pima County's Kino Sports Complex, 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.

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 Arizona Pickleball Players League became incorporated in 2019. The league has been in existence since 2012 and originally started out as the East Valley Interclub League (EVIL). The EVIL league continues to grow and is a regional league in the East Valley Region.

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 pre-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 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? - 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 Regional Leagues websites for each Regional League 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. 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. The EVIL Regional league remains 50+.

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.

Where can I get more information? - The APPL website is: arizonapickleballplayersleague.org . There you can find more detailed information and a simple form to get other questions answered. 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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