



PickleBlast

December 2017 PickleBlast

Hi all and welcome to the latest **PickleBlast**. Last week we held a board meeting full of discussion on various club policies, so this edition of the PickleBlast is dedicated to policy. Hopefully, you'll gain a better understanding of how we're working to refine the management of our club and the courts on which we play.

What's in this PickleBlast?

December Board Meeting Highlights
GVR Pickleball Center update
Website updates
Welcome New Members
Member Rating changes
Interview with Policy Pete
Netiquette
Observations
Upcoming Events

Board Meeting Highlights

- Approved changes to the club Policy Manual to modify the ratings process and to define the process of creating court schedules. The most up to date version of the Policy Manual can be found [here](#).
- It's time to start thinking about our Board and officer elections for the next year. If you are interested in being a candidate for a Board position, please contact Donna Talarski to discuss. We'll put out more details after the first of the year.
- Are you interested in club policy set by the Board? Each of the Board meetings are listed on our club calendar well in advance and each month's agenda is published prior to the meeting. If you can't make a meeting, you can access the minutes [here](#). Take the time to be informed, rather than rushing to judgement based on the rumors you hear.

GVR Pickleball Center update

GVR is working with an engineering firm to define development costs for a couple of potential sites for the new center. If you would like to make a tax-deductible contribution through the GVR Foundation, contact a Board member to learn how to do so. This is an excellent time to donate through the GVR Foundation and take advantage of the tax deduction before the end of the year.

Website Updates

- Have a question, suggestion, or complaint? The best way to communicate with the Board is through our [Suggestion Box](#). We try to remember the conversations we have at the courts,

but that's not the most reliable way to pass on your ideas. Send us your ideas through the website and we'll respond as quickly as we can.

- **Who is that and who are you?** Having a hard time remembering everyone's name? Our club name tags are just the thing to keep from having to introduce yourself over and over. You can order [here](#).
- Are you looking for information about skills rating sessions, current court schedules, GVR guest policy, or reserving a court? You can find all of that (and more!) [here](#).

Welcome New Members! (November)

Tim Brown	Carol Craig	Galen Durr	Sandi McCullar
Wally Rhodes	Michael Schaefer	Diana and John Smit	Jean and Robert Stephenson
Bruce Summers	Tom Verdoorn	Steve Wojciechowski	Mary and Greg Wright

Congrats to Members with New Ratings! (November)

Moved to 2.5:			
Gerri Bryan	Con Nadeau	Cathy O'Brien	Constance Prescott
Moved to 3.0:			
Maria Acevedo	Rhonda Alexander	John Carlton	Rebecca Garcia
Gene Prescott	Glenn Riley	Karen Riley	
John VanVeldhuizen	MJ VanVeldhuizen		
Moved to 3.5:			
Leonard Donnelly	Dan Fennerty	Paul Greathouse	Kathy Harrell
Bill Herrington	Steve Hoge	Vic Loewen	Dianna Michels
Sharon Oxendahl	Stan Oxendahl	Dennis Tarr	
Moved to 4.0:			
Moved to 4.5:			
Clete Liedl			

** Have you received a new rating from USAPA? If so, let our Secretary Virginia Smith know and she'll update your club profile.

Interview with Policy Pete

Today our interview is with Policy Pete. Pete is our resident expert on all things about club policy and is here today to explain the recent changes in our policies, how the process works, and what that means to each of us.

[PickleBlast]: Hi Pete. Please tell us about your background, how you came to Green Valley, and how you discovered the game of pickleball.

[Policy Pete]: I was riding down Abrego Drive on a truck full of turnips recently and fell off when the truck took off at the light at Esperanza Boulevard. I then stumbled into the East Center right in the middle of a GVRPC board meeting and learned all about the policies that make our club work. I was a natural to help the club, as I have a lot of experience putting ten pounds of turnips into five pound sacks, which is what we're trying to accomplish here with +800 members and eleven courts. As far as pickleball, I just achieved my well-earned credentials as a 1.5 level player.

[PB]: Um, okay. Congratulations? So tell us about recent changes in club policy and how that is intended to help our club.

[PP]: In the last three months, we have created a Club Policy Manual and included sections on membership, communications, court usage, and skill ratings, to name a few. This Policy Manual is a living document, meaning that it is modified with Board approval as the Board continues to refine our club structure and how we manage the courts for all members. Before the creation of the Policy Manual, we relied on the collective memories of our membership to recall specific policy. As you might imagine, there were many differing interpretations of what should be done in each situation.

[PB]: At the recent December Board meeting, there was a fair amount of discussion regarding the process of creating court schedules, changes to the ratings process, and the limit on the number of paddles we can stack during focus play. As an eyewitness, what did you take away from that meeting?

[PP]: Well, we had a great turnout for that meeting - probably because word spread that I'd be in attendance. Everyone was given the opportunity to speak on each issue considered and though not everyone agreed with every outcome, it was a healthy exchange of ideas. The Board considered what the members had to say and in some cases incorporated new ideas into the approved policy changes. Many of those in attendance have confided in me that they were appreciative of the collaborative approach and consensus that the Board encourages.

[PB]: Pete, it's been quite the experience talking with you today and good luck looking for that next turnip truck. Or, are you planning to stay in Green Valley for awhile?

[PP]: I'm not sure. Life on the road is a lot of fun, but so is playing pickleball in Green Valley. I just might stay for awhile and work towards that lofty goal of being a 2.0 level player. And, continue to work as a consultant to the GVRPC Board on policy.

Netiquette

We're introducing a new section of the PickleBlast to highlight some of the court manners that many of us take for granted but might need a reminder from time to time. Others may not be aware of our local customs, so here goes!

- Please mark your paddles with your name and if possible, emergency contact info. Your name keeps others from taking the wrong paddle and it helps our coordinators know who's name to call to play.
- The court monitoring system is implemented to help you know when and where to play. Please give those volunteers your respect as they help all of us play on crowded courts for the next few months.

Observations

Although we had a good turnout at our last Board meeting, it was still a fraction of the club membership. So, for those of you who were unable to attend, here is the explanation of the major policy changes discussed and approved.

- Volunteers collect and evaluate court usage statistics continuously and the Court Schedule Committee meets to discuss changes in court schedules several times throughout the year. Because of a lack of sufficient court space and time during the high season, those making the schedule changes receive significant feedback after new schedules are posted. As has been mentioned many times, this committee is doing its absolute best to balance times for focus play, drop-in play, Round Robins, instruction, and reserved courts, while considering GVR requirements and the shifting number of people at each skill level. Club membership will be given an opportunity for feedback prior to implementation of any future schedule changes to provide the committee with constructive feedback prior to changes.
- The ratings evaluation process is being significantly changed. Members wishing to be evaluated for advancing to a higher skill rating may request an evaluation session by scheduling an available time during focus play for the target level for which they are testing through SignUpGenius. A 3-game match with three members at the target level will then be scheduled at an agreed upon time. The candidate will play a single game with each of the three members to eleven and win by one. During the 3-game match, the candidate will play with a different partner each game. The scores from the candidate's team for each of the 3 games will be added together and must reach a minimum of 21 points. During this evaluation, stacking of four paddles is permitted to ensure that the same four players remain together throughout the 3-game match. The Ratings Committee will oversee the match. A candidate can test no more than once per two week period.

Currently there are a number of candidates who have already scheduled evaluation sessions. These candidates will have the option to participate in an evaluation session as has been offered, or they can sign up for a session using the new rating method. Each candidate will be contacted individually to make their choice.

Upcoming Events

- The courts are scheduled for the quarterly cleaning on December 29. We'll put out a reminder when we get closer to the date.
- Poker night is back! January 17 from 4-8 pm at the East Center. Wear something festive and see if Santa will leave you some good hands! If you'd like to volunteer to help, we need two or three of you to help us put this on. Contact Dean Olson for details.
- The annual GVR Fit N Fun Day is scheduled for Sunday, January 28 1:00-3:00 pm. During this event our club creates a demo pickleball court at Las Campanas and provides club information at an indoor booth. We are looking for volunteers to setup the court and to work at the booth inside.
- Save the Date! The Southern Arizona Senior Games is scheduled for March 6-8, 2018, with registration scheduled to begin January 7, 2018. The 2.0/2.5 Round Robin tournament will also be that week, with details to be released later.
- Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Watch for announcements for schedules during the holidays when some GVR facilities close or close early.

Member Directory

The Member Directory button on the home page of our website will take you to a password protected list of current members. We receive a lot of requests for that password, which is "1965". As the directory information recording used to say, "Please make a note of it."

In Closing

If you have a suggestion, comment, or a question, let us know – preferably by email – as discussions on the court sometimes (actually quite frequently) get lost or forgotten. And let us know if you find this newsletter helpful. Use the GVR Pickleball Club website (<http://www.gvrpickleball.org>) to contact us.

That's all for now folks.....stay positive, keep smiling, and enjoy playing!!!!



- **Jeff Harrell**
- President, GVR Pickleball