

May 2021 PickleBlast

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Committee / Work Area Reports 05-13-2021 Board Meeting

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Board Meeting Highlights - 05-13-2021

The following motions were approved unanimously:

- To accept the recommendation of the Ratings Workgroup to revise the existing system to include the following elements for ratings testing: 1) rules, 2) skills, and 3) playing using specified criteria for each level (see below for more information on implementation).
- To initiate intercommunity play between the Quail Creek pickleball club and the GVR pickleball club starting on Monday, June 7, 2021. Details and registration instructions on this opportunity will be sent via email.

Player Development

The club recently changed the name of our Education Committee to Player Development. The change better reflects the updated ratings program and goal to integrate with the class offerings (those offered for free through the club and for a fee through GVR). Carol Hammerle continues to lead us in the education offerings and her recent role in serving on the Ratings Workgroup means that we have desired cohesiveness to develop offerings that will aid in club members' development. The GVR class schedule that is shown below will reflect these changes as will the classes that the club offers. Thanks to our wonderful members who continue to make these classes possible as independent contractors with GVR and volunteers with the club.

In addition, the last phases of the ratings pilot program were reviewed along with an assessment of a followup program that 11 participants of the GVR 301 class did with Carol Hammerle and Kathy Palese and it was determined to add play practice skills development, this is in addition to the skills development offering to introduce and practice the ratings skill criteria.

The Developing Skills Summer Program offered on Tuesday/Thursdays from 7:30-9 AM has had a full complement of players. Jane Hunt, Sam Schaen and John Frazier are coordinating the program. Players from the GVR 301 class are paying it forward and helping instruct the DS program.

SNAP TO THE NEXT LEVEL pilot program is being offered by Kathy Palese on Wednesday evening 6-8 PM the month of May at the East Center.

The Player Development Committee will be meeting to discuss future needs of the PB club and how classes and programs can assist in helping players to pass the new ratings program.

2021-22 Fall and Winter GVR Class Schedule

PB 101 Fall Schedule 2021:

- A: Oct 5, 12, 19, 26 Mike Gustin
- B: Oct 6, 13, 20, 27 Al Willette
- A: Nov 2, 9, 16, 23 Mike Gustin
- B: Nov 3, 10, 17, 24 Al Willette

PB 201, 202, 301 Fall Schedule 2021: Carol Hammerle

- PB 201: Oct 4, 11,18
- PB 202: Oct 25, Nov 1, 8
- PB 301: Nov 15, 22, 29

SNAP Fall Schedule 2021: Kathy Palese

- Oct. 5, 12, 19
- Nov 2, 9, 16

SNAP to the Next Level FALL 2021 (NEW) Kathy Palese

- Oct 26
- Nov 30

PB 101 Winter Schedule 2022:

- A: Jan 4, 11, 18, 25 Mike Gustin
- B: Jan 5, 12,19, 26 Al Willette
- A: Feb 1, 8, 15, 22 Mike Gustin
- B: Feb 2, 9, 16, 23 Al Willette
- A: Mar 1, 8, 15, 22 Mike Gustin
- B: Mar 2, 9,16, 23 Al Willette
- A: Apr 5,12, 19, 26 Mike Gustin

PB 201, 202, 301 Winter Schedule 2022 Carol Hammerle

- PB 201: Jan 3, 10, 17
- PB 202: Jan 24, 31, Feb 7
- PB 301: Feb 14, 21, 28
- PB 201: Mar 7, 14, 21
- PB 202: Apr 4, 11, 18

SNAP Winter Schedule 2022: Kathy Palese

- Jan 4, 11, 18
- Feb 1, 8, 15
- Mar 1, 8,15

- Mar 29, April 5, 12

SNAP to the Next Level Kathy Palese

- Jan 25
- Feb 22
- Mar 22
- April 19

GVR Update

Camera feeds at the EC and PBC have not been re-activated. It isn't looking like the potential legal liability issues can be adequately resolved to change this status. The GVR staff is investigating if posting the hourly card swipe data to the GVR website might help with member needs to know when courts are being used. The East Center courts were resurfaced and the parking lot at the Kent J. Blumenthal Pickleball Center also got a touch up. When you get an opportunity, please let GVR know that you appreciate the good work they are doing to maintain the pickleball facilities. They rely on the club to alert them to maintenance and repair needs and they have been favorably responsive to the majority of our requests. GVR recently updated their member database system and this has created some challenges for the club as it relates to new members registering on the website and in some cases logging into their accounts. Solutions have been identified and we believe the issues have been addressed.

New Members (April 2021)

Linda Zeranko joined along with Shelly Sordo, Harold Abadilla, Susan Ammons, Molly Hoben, Dan Petree, Timi Ringstad, Susan Heiss, Julianne Howell, Mike & Joyce Finkelstein, Deb and Jan Affinito, Paul Brandner, Mary & Bruce Fraas, Amelie Anderson, James Culver

Ratings Workgroup

We appreciate the excellent and constructive feedback received from members participating in the pilot development programs which has provided confirmation of the direction the club is endeavoring, i.e. to offer varying pathways to meet individual needs for player development - social, recreational, and competitive.

The ratings workgroup's recommendations were accepted and approved unanimously at the May 13, 2021 board meeting. The workgroup continues to discuss the pros and cons of offering testing October through April (which has been the club's practice with the exception of summer 2020) with player preparation and development months being May through September. Implementation centers on the training of club members who have indicated interest to serve in the roles of preparation and testing. In addition, the club will have a core group who will serve administrative roles. Mike and Margaret McCarry will serve as the program coordinators. Members who have indicated interest as wanting to serve as skill level coordinators will be engaged to fill those roles and job functions.

Details for preparation and testing opportunities will be communicated via email, available on the club's website and in Pickleball.Plus for signups.

Wellness / Outreach

Do you know someone who could use a pick me up or do you need to convey news about a member? Simply click on the Contact Us button at the top of our webpage <http://www.gvrpickleball.org> and select **Wellness/Outreach Committee** and complete the form.

If you want to become involved, have a suggestion, comment, or a question please use the Contact Us feature on the GVR Pickleball Club website <http://www.gvrpickleball.org>.

Connect on Facebook!

If you have not joined our Facebook group page I encourage you to do so. Here is the link.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/252938121566884>

TAPPL (Tucson Area Pickleball Players League)

Team captains, Jim Maxwell, Nina Campfield, Sam Schaen , Deb McPartland, Scott Rowsam, and Ruth Neufeld, recently met with program coordinator, Carol Hammerle, to review the year and discuss suggestions for next year. The inaugural year for the league was considered generally positive while an instructive and illuminating experience. The following are ranked choices for action and consideration for next season.

#1 Choices (Top priority action improvements)

1. Change recruiting and selection process. Use competition to select teams. Consider the selection of an A and B team. Possibly include standby players in addition to a core of 6. Match players to play together rather than rotating players. Recruit more players. A shortage of players sometimes resulted in no sub. Note: Allow individuals the option to create their own team.
2. Identify objectives of TAPPL as competition/be the best as a top priority. Social play is offered to players in other venues, such as Focus Play. Select teams based on talent, willing to drill and practice, willing to be on a team where the best players are selected to compete against other teams.
3. Make available coaching, coaches, and best practices to captains and teams. Include inter-club play.

#2 Choices (Improvements to consider)

1. Have a more consistent and accurate rating process to identify player level. Self-evaluation is often not accurate. The Club is developing a new rating system that over time may be more accurate.
2. Consider age brackets or a handicap method. *Propose a “senior division” to TAPPL/APPL
3. Include more social activities after competition.

#3 Choices (Low Priority Improvements and/or Unable to Make this Happen)

1. Investigate court availability for both practice and competition. Play in the mornings rather than afternoon if possible due to wind and heat. Possible 11-12:00 start. Show-case Complex to other Clubs. Consider court time for Club Focus Play first. Remember to consider travel time for opponents.
2. Reduce travel as much as possible.
3. Six of our players did not ever play competitively which made the competitive environment more difficult. The captain tried to determine appropriate drills. It would have been beneficial to mix and practice with 3.5 and 4.0 level players so the lack of experience would not have been such an eye opener.

Mill and Overlay of Camino de la Canoa

Camino de la Canoa is on the local road repair list for Pima County fiscal year July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022. While a longshot, the club has written in support of the Santa Cruz Valley Bicycle Advocacy Committee's request to add bike lanes to the project as those are not in the current plans. A survey conducted last year at this time indicated an increased number of club members would ride their bike to the facility if there were bike lanes.

Social Activities

With the lifting of the COVID-19 restrictions and facilities opening for groups where food and beverages can be served, our Social Committee is gearing up to organize the following events for the remainder of the year. These events are typically held in the later afternoon / early evening and include a potluck and open play when at the East Center. It's a lot of fun and a great way to connect with folks who play other levels. If you are interested in

volunteering on this committee, please contact board member, Mary Wright (her information is in the member database in Pickleball.Plus).

Dink and Dine	June 26th, Saturday	East Center
Dink and Dine	July 24th, Saturday	East Center
Ice Cream Social	August 14th, Saturday	East Center
Expanded Dink and Dine with BBQ	Sept. 18th, Saturday	Canoa Hills Park including Bocce Ball Courts
Chili Cook Off	Oct. 16th, Saturday	East Center
Pickleball Olympics	Nov. 14th, Sunday	East Center

Website Survey & Webmaster Needed

Our current webmaster volunteer, Dean Beilke, also manages the Pickleball.Plus program. The load between these two responsibilities would be better distributed with another person or two as he would like to focus on Pickleball.Plus. Watch for a survey to give feedback on the website and to indicate if you can assist in a webmaster role. The club uses the WIX platform.

Observations

It is so heartening to have such great energy among our newest members. Recently, I had the opportunity to say hello and engage in conversation with a group of 2.5 women as they were leaving the PBC. One of them commented, "I'm so sorry for all of the questions we throw your way." They then described how much they appreciate all of the opportunities the club makes available to them and the responsiveness we have been able to show them when suggestions arise. I replied how much I appreciated their involvement especially in the 2.5 round robins and the engagement shown by their questions. I explained that two years ago the club had difficulty getting the 2.5 folks interested in round robins. There were many different reasons for this. A significant one was that the club did not have the most seamless of experiences for new players to transition into various types of play. The efforts and focus of our coaches and volunteers to remedy these gaps are producing positive fruit and we definitely see this in our newest cohort of players and members. Well done everyone!!!

Thank you again to all of the volunteers who make this club such a great place to serve. You are appreciated!

Carpe Dinkum!



Gina Rowsam, President
GVR Pickleball Club