

## **PICKLEBALL**

### **(PARTNER EVENT) OPEN**

#### **ELIGIBILITY**

Participants do not have to qualify through regional play-offs. Entries may be sent directly to the AAIM office. Entry forms may be obtained from the office or the website.

#### **EVENT CLASSIFICATION LEVELS**

- Men's Doubles / Women's Doubles / Mixed Doubles
  - 55+, 60+, 65+, 70+, 75+
  - Skill Levels: 3.0, 3.5, 4.0+

**MINIMUM # OF ENTRIES RECOMMENDED:** 3 Teams/Age Category

#### **RULE & REGULATIONS**

Rules & regulations set by the International Federation of Pickleball shall apply.

1. Older players may play in the younger age category, but younger may not play in the older.
2. You must enter the tournament with a partner for the entire tournament. If a player is unable to continue to play, the team must default.

#### **OFFICIALS**

The event officials will be provided by the Host Community or Pickleball Chair.

#### **EQUIPMENT**

Asphalt or gymnasium style courts will be used. Balls will be provided by the Host Committee (supplemented by AAIM) or the Pickleball Chair. Players are responsible for their own racquets.

#### **TOURNAMENT DRAW**

Draws set by the International Federation of Pickleball apply (Chairperson to assist).

#### **AWARDS**

First, second, and third place will be awarded in each category. Awards will be presented immediately following the event or at a central location at a predetermined time.

## IFP Skill Rating Descriptions for Pickleball Players

Rating	Skill Rating Description
1.0	New and have only minimal knowledge of the game and the rules.
1.5	Limited to some rallies. Learning how to serve. Developing a forehand. Fails to return easy balls frequently and occasionally misses the ball entirely. Played a few games and is learning the court lines, scoring, and some basic rules of the game.
2.0	Sustains a short rally with players of equal ability. Demonstrating the basic shot strokes – forehand, backhand, volley, overhead and the serve, but has obvious weaknesses in most strokes. Familiar with court positioning in doubles play.
2.5	Makes longer lasting slow-paced rallies. Makes most easy volleys and uses some backhands, but needs more work on developing shot strokes. Beginning to approach the non-volley zone to hit volleys. Aware of the “soft game.” Knowledge of the rules has improved. Court coverage is weak but improving.
3.0	More consistent on the serve and service return and when returning medium-paced balls. Demonstrates improved skills with all the basic shot strokes and shot placement but lacks control when trying for direction, depth, or power on their shots. Beginning to attempt lobs and dinks with little success and doesn’t fully understand when and why they should be used.
3.5	Demonstrates improved stroke dependability with directional control on most medium-paced balls and some faster-paced balls. Demonstrates improved control when trying for direction, depth and power on their shots. Needs to develop variety with their shots. Exhibits some aggressive net play. Beginning to anticipate opponent’s shots. Learning about the importance of strategy and teamwork in doubles.
4.0	Consistent and dependable strokes, including directional control and depth on

	<p>both forehand and backhand shots.  Reliable serves, lobs, overheads, approach shots and volleys and can use spin shots with some success.  Occasionally can force errors when serving.  Rallies may be lost due to impatience.  Uses the dink shot and drop shots to slow down or change the pace of the game.  Demonstrates 3<sup>rd</sup> shot strategies – drop shots, lobs, and fast-paced ground strokes.  Aggressive net play and teamwork in doubles is evident.  Fully understands the rules of the game and can play by them.</p>
4.5	<p>Beginning to master the use of power and spin, can successfully execute all shots, can control the depth of their shots, and can handle pace.  Beginning to master the dink shots and drop shots and their importance to the game.  Beginning to master 3<sup>rd</sup> shot choices.  Displays sound footwork and moves well enough to get to the non-volley zone whenever required.  Understands strategy and can adjust style of play and game plan according to the opponent's strengths and weaknesses and court position.  Serves with power and accuracy and can also vary the speed and spin of the serve.  Understands the importance of "keeping the ball in play" and the effect of making errors.  Making good choices in shot selection.  Anticipates the opponent's shots resulting in good court positioning.</p>
5.0	<p>Mastered all the skills – all shot types, touch, spin, serves, with control and can use them as weapons.  Excellent shot anticipation, extremely accurate shot placement and regularly hit winning shots.  Forces opponents into making errors by "keeping the ball in play."  Mastered the dink and drop shots.  Mastered the 3<sup>rd</sup> shot choices and strategies.  Uses soft shots, dinks and lobs to set up offensive situations.  Mastered pickleball strategies and can vary strategies and styles of play in competitive or tournament matches.  Dependable in stressful situations as in tournament match play.  Athletic ability, quickness, agility, and raw athleticism are also qualities that are sometimes what separates the top players from those near the top.</p>