

- Bringing Competitive Team Based Pickleball Throughout Arizona -

Introducing

APPL



## **Bringing a New Dimension to Pickleball**

"APPL morphed from a 6 team men's pilot league in 2019 to a 95 team over 1100 players structured men's and women's league in 2020."

"Our product opens play up to a wider diversity of player skills and gives the tournament weary ones a less costly more active experience"

"I love the pickleball league concept. It's a great way to enjoy organized competitive games with minimal cost and lots of flexibility. Had a fun season with my team and look forward to seeing league play take off in Arizona and on a national level. Excellent addition to tournament and recreational play."

**-Vicki Foster** (3x National Champion Tournament & Teaching Pro)



# Words from an entry level player

"As a beginning player at the start of the season last year, the big challenge was finding other beginners who wanted to play on a consistent basis.

The league gave me 12 other players willing to practice weekly. That would have been well worth the small price of admission, but we also had 6 competitive matches.

Out of our team of 13, 5 of us continue to play almost daily. And, 4 of us bought a pickleball machine to help us improve. I've attended birthday parties for people I didn't know a year ago. It has been a fantastic experience in every way. Thank you APPL!!!"

John-Scott Dixon Captain (Men's 3.0 Pecos Park Team)

## **General State of Organized Pickleball**

# Where is Pickleball today?

- Huge infrastructure and focus on singles and doubles tournament competitions
  - Costs to enter increasing, becoming more difficult to participate, ...
  - Yet less than .1% of pickleball players play in sanctioned tournaments
- The majority of players are looking for organized events that don't require membership and are fun
  - Local Round Robins popping up everywhere (some organized, some not)
  - Players want to enjoy a low cost simple & active game
  - Organizers are emerging (individuals and organizations) to support this need
- Cities are adding nice pickleball complexes.
  - Pecos Park (Phx), Gilbert Regional Park, Kino Sports Complex (Tucson)
  - Looking to add quantity and quality of services to communities
- However there is little to no infrastructure on "team-based" <u>league</u> pickleball play
  - Team: More than 2 players on a team
  - League: A group of teams that play each other over a period of time for a championship
  - Tennis (USTA) has over 330,000 players playing team-based league tennis



# What is "Team Based" League Pickleball?

- Team based league pickleball is a competition where <u>several teams</u> consisting of <u>6 or more</u> <u>players</u> compete against other teams within the same skill level over a <u>period of months</u> for a <u>championship using a <u>standardized and</u> <u>structured format</u> of play.
  </u>
- How much does it cost over the season?
  - Less than the cost to play in <u>one</u> tournament!
- Where can you find it? -- APPL

arizonapickleballplayersleague.org



# • What is APPL?

- APPL is a <u>nonprofit</u> corporation run by a team of <u>volunteers</u> with years of experience with team-based league pickleball. Several have USTA tennis league experience.
- APPL's mission is to bring the team-based league experience to all players throughout Arizona and not just those who can qualify, afford or manage to get into tournaments.
- We are proud to be addressing this unfulfilled void for the right reasons and not for personal profit.

arizonapickleballplayersleague.org

# **Introducing APPL**

## **Some Statistics**

- APPL's team-based league concept started in 2012 with the East Valley Interclub League (EVIL)
  - Originally 5 active adult communities (50+)
- The APPL format and organization started in 2019
  - Wanted to expand to 18+ and players still in the workforce
  - EVIL became a regional league in APPL and is still growing.
  - The Casa Grande Region was started up
  - The East Valley Region was started up
- APPL's Season 2020 had over 1100 players participate on 95 teams
- With the addition of the West Valley Region and Southern Region we expect participation in Season 2021 to easily increase 50%.
- Our mission to bring a new pickleball experience that is fun and competitive to players in the communities has also been fueled through City partnerships with mutual goals
  - Casa Grande & Phoenix
  - Now engaged with Tucson/Pima County, Gilbert, Tempe, Surprise, Goodyear



## What Is Important to Pickleball Players?

### In General

Organized Structure
Cost is a factor
Competitive
Convenient
Accessible to players

Consistent Survey Feedback

**COMPETITIVE!** 

**Reasonable Cost** 

Meet and Find players to play with.

Non intimidating open play with similar skilled players.

Low cost.

Organized

**Entry Level** 

Level of Play

**Advanced** 



# **League Structure**



# Casa Grande Region

# Regional Leagues - SAPPL

Women's Division Grps: 3.0 thru 4.5/5.0 Men's Division Grps: 3.0 thru 4.5/5.0

Mixed Division

Grps: 3.0 thru 4.5/5.0

# East Valley Region

#### Regional Leagues

- Red APPL (RAPPL)
Women's Division

Grps: 3.0 thru,4.5/5.0 Men's Division

Grps: 3.0 thru 4.5/5.0 Mixed Division

Grps: 3.0 thru 4.5/5.0

#### - EVIL

Women's Division Grps: 3.0, 3.5, 4.0 Men's Division Grps: 3.0, 3.5, 4.0 Mixed Division Grps: 3.5+

- Green APPL

Development League Women & Men

# West Valley Region

#### Regional Leagues

- WAPPL

Women's Division Grps: 3.0 thru 4.5/5.0 Men's Division Grps: 3.0 thru 4.5/5.0 Mixed Division (season 2022)

# Southern Region

# Regional Leagues

Women's Division Grps: 3.0 thru 4.5/5.0 Men's Division Grps: 3.0 thru 4.5/5.0 Mixed Division (season 2022)

#### **APPL Mission:**

To provide infrastructure and leadership for the operation and expansion of amateur competitive team-based pickleball leagues for men and women throughout Arizona

\* All of the above is run by volunteers

\* Unique to APPL



# League Model: Court Demand & Match Format

#### **Court Demand:**

- Only need 3 courts per match
- Matches take max. 2.5 hours to complete (typically 2hrs...not including warm up)
- Teams home courts could be at their club or at a City complex (if arranged)
- Each community can create as many teams as they want
- In a 6 team Skill Group (10 matches to be played against the other teams) only 5 home court matches (3 courts per match) are needed over the 12 week season.
   The other 5 are away matches.
- Courts are usually scheduled during non peak times

#### **Match Format:**

- A team roster usually contains 10-12 players
- On match day 6 players are in the line-up for the home team and the visiting team
   (12 players 3 pairs of 2 players on each team)
- Games played per match: 18 (each pair plays 6 games)(2 games against each of the other team's pairs)
- The team with the most team points at the end of the match wins



C3 - El Mirage

C4 - Sun City West

C5 - Happy Trails

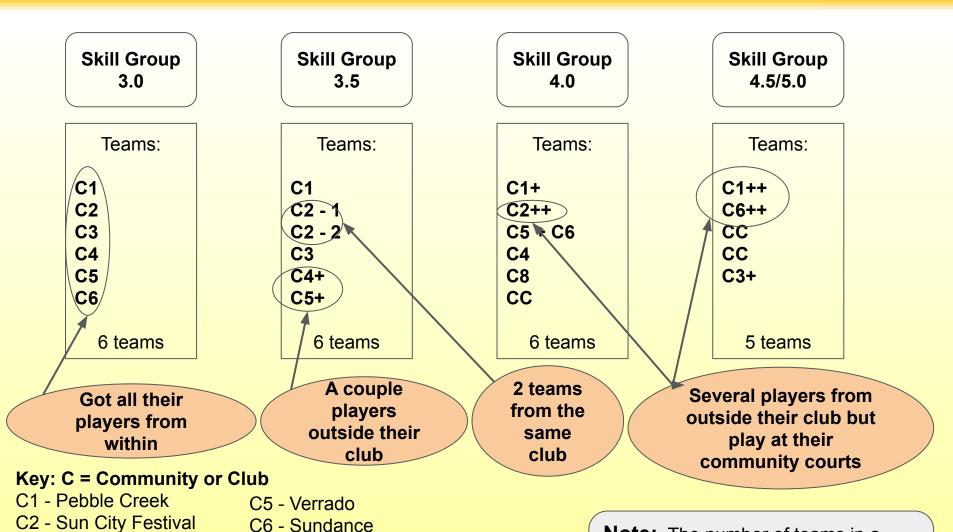
C7 - Surprise

C8 - Marinette

CC - Players from anywhere. Use

City Courts for Home Courts

# League Example: Key Point: Lots of Options



Note: The number of teams in a Skill Group is typically 4 - 6. But can be larger without exceeding 5 home matches.

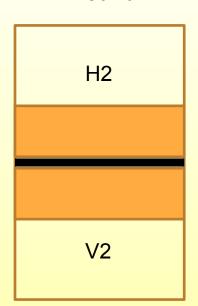


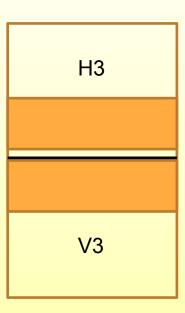
#### **The APPL Match**

# Team Dinking Devils (H) vs Smashers (V)

#### Round 1

H1 V1





Team H1 – Jeff & Bob Team H2 - Tony & Tom Team H3 – Jim & Steve Team V1 – Carl & Dave Team V2 - Bill & Chris Team V3 – Sam & John

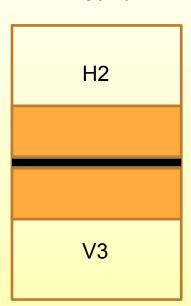


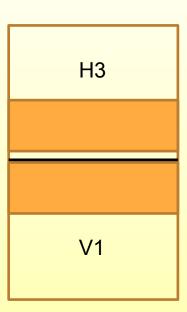
#### **The APPL Match**

## Team Dinking Devils (H) vs Team Smashers (V)

#### Round 2

H1





Team H1 – Jeff & Bob Team H2 - Tony & Tom Team H3 – Jim & Steve Team V1 – Carl & Dave Team V2 - Bill & Chris Team V3 – Sam & John

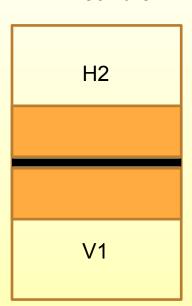


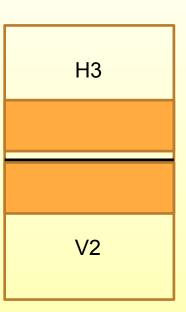
#### **The APPL Match**

# Team Dinking Devils (H) vs Team Smashers (V)

#### Round 3

H1





Team H1 – Jeff & Bob Team H2 - Tony & Tom Team H3 – Jim & Steve Team V1 – Carl & Dave Team V2 - Bill & Chris Team V3 – Sam & John



# Processes & Templates Scoresheets

						APPL Scoresheet			Match ID#:TA-MD4.0-07			
				_		Rev: 12/10/19						
		Home 1	ream: Dinking De	evils				Visiting	Team: Smash	ers		
			PLAYER NAMES						PLAYER NAMES			
		H1	Jeff	Bob				V1	Carl	Dave	)	
		H2	Tony	Tom				V2	Bill	Chris		
		нз	Jim	Steve				V3	Sam	John		
		Sub 1	(Op	tional)				Sub 1	(Opt	ional)		
	Subto	tal Pts	Game Scores	Poi	nts	Game Scores	Poi	ints	Game Scores	Poi	nts	
	HOME	VISIT	11 8	HOME	120000000000000000000000000000000000000		HOME	VISIT	5 11	HOME	10101010101010	
	7	_	H1 vs V1	2	1	H2 11 vs V2 2	2	0	H3 vs V3	0	2	
Round 1	_		H1 5 vs V1 11	0	2	H2 11 vs V2 4	2	0	H3 7 vs V3 11	1	2	
			H1 7 vs V2 11	1	2	H2 11 vs V3 9	2	1	12 vs V1	2	1	
Round 2	9	8 —	H1 11 vs V2 7	1 2	1	H2 11 vs V3 6	2 2	1	H3 5 vs V1 11	0	2	
			11 vs V3 13	1	2	11 vs V1 2	2	0	5 vs V2 11	0	2	
Round 3	6	9	H1 5 vs V3 11	0	2	H2 11 vs V1 7	2	1	H3 7 vs V2 11	1	2	
Total Pts			Total Pts	Home T	eam mus	report the score within 48	hours of	match com	upletion (see the APPI web	site)		
HOME	_22	24	VISITOR			stain should initial the Home						
				Home To	eam capt	ain should retain the scores	heet unti	the seaso				



APPL
Introduction to
each Community
Leadership



Community
Leadership Identifies a
League Administrator
(CLA)

APPL Identifies
CLA support
team



Critical For Start Up

APPL CLA support team works with CLA and Captains



CLA recruits Captains and helps Captains build teams



# **APPL Core Can Provide:**

- Creating team schedules
- Maintaining the standings
- Helping you advertise the regional league
- Maintain Central Web site
- City Park court coordination
- Non-profit legal status
- Insurance
- Possible APPL-wide sponsorships

# **You Provide**

- Club/Local Coordination
- Teams
- Courts



# Processes & Templates Schedules

#### APPL Schedules RAWD 3.5: APPL Schedule RAWD3.5

Match ID	Visiting Team	vs.	Home Team	Date	Time	Location	Winning Team	Score
RA-WD3.5-01	Sweet Dills	VS	Designated Dinkers	1/13	6:00p	Sunland Springs	Designated Dinkers	32 - 11
RA-WD3.5-02	STP	VS	Valley Girls	1/14	11:30a	Pecos	STP	33 - 9
RA-WD3.5-03	Valley Girls	VS	Sweet Dills	1/20	2:00p	Pecos	Sweet Dills	23 - 21
RA-WD3.5-04	Designated Dinkers	VS	STP	1/22	9:00a	Dobson Ranch	Designated Dinkers	29 - 19
RA-WD3.5-05	Sweet Dills	VS	STP	1/29	9:00a	Dobson Ranch	STP	32 - 9
RA-WD3.5-06	Valley Girls	VS	Designated Dinkers	2/17	6:00p	Sunland Springs	Designated Dinkers	34 - 7
RA-WD3.5-7	Designated Dinkers	vs	Sweet Dills	2/17	2:00p	Pecos	Designated Dinkers	34 - 10
RA-WD3.5-8	Valley Girls	VS	STP	2/19	9:00a	Dobson Ranch	STP	24 - 22
RA-WD3.5-9	Sweet Dills	vs	Valley Girls	2/25	11:30a	Pecos	Valley Girls	31 - 16
RA-WD3.5-10	STP	VS	Designated Dinkers	3/7	1:00p	Sunland Springs	STP	28 - 21
RA-WD3.5-11	STP	vs	Sweet Dills	3/2	2:00p	Pecos	STP	34 - 7
RA-WD3.5-12	Designated Dinkers	VS	Valley Girls	3/3	11:30a	Pecos	Valley Girls	29 - 21
				4)				
Southern/East Val	ley Regional Championshi	р	-					
	SAPPL Winner	VS	Red APPL Winner STP	3/25	11:30a	Dave White Park		



# **Processes & Templates** *Rosters, Schedules Standings*

#### **RED APPL Rosters, Schedules & Standings**

#### MENS 4.5/5.0 Team Rosters

**Mangoes** 

**Hitmen** 

SCAMeR's

Team Geenen

Team Stevenson

**Backhanded Compliments** 

#### **MENS 4.0 Team Rosters**

No Teams This Season

#### **MENS 3.5 Team Rosters**

**Ball Busters** 

**Poachers** 

Senior Picklers

Bangers and Smash

Insurica Nomads



Standings

Schedule

#### **WOMENS 4.5/5.0 Team Rosters**

Minja's Rotten Apples

Responsible Dinkers

Team Barron

Team Elliott

Team Baze

**Drop Shot Divas** 

#### **WOMENS 4.0 Team Rosters**

No Teams This Season

#### **WOMENS 3.5 Team Rosters**

STP

Sweet Dills

Valley Girls

**Designated Dinkers** 

Standings

Schedule





# Processes & Templates Standings

#### Red APPL Women's 3.5 Standings

Rank	Team	Wins	Losses	Ties	Points
#1	STP	5	1	0	170
#2	Designated <u>Dinkers</u>	4	2	0	171
#3	Valley Girls	2	4	0	119
#4	Sweet Dills	1	5	0	76

### Red APPL Men's 4.5/5.0 Standings

Rank	Team	Wins	Losses	Ties	Points
#1	Team Geenen	8	2	0	255
#2	Team Stevenson	6	3	0	228
#3	SCAMeR's	4	4	0	177
#4	The Hitmen	4	5	0	161
#5	The Mangoes	3	5	0	161
#6	Backhanded Compliments	1	7	0	142



### **APPL** Roadmap

New Mexico



#### **Existing 2020**

- East Valley Region
- Casa Grande Region

#### Planned 2021

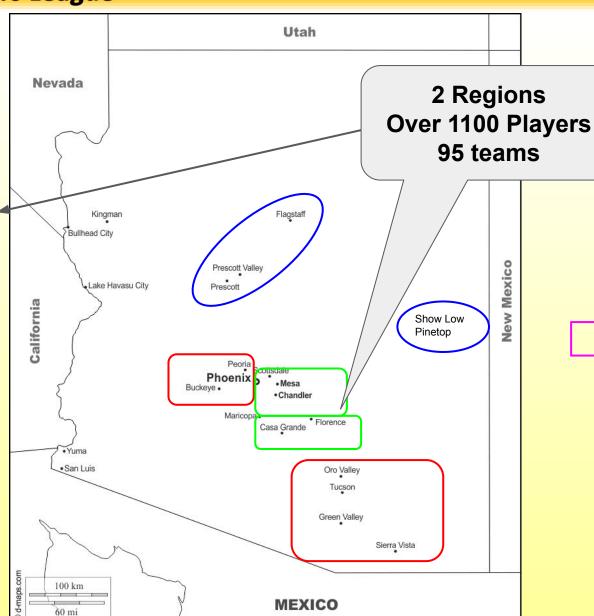
- West Valley Region
- Southern Region

#### Planned 2021

- Northern Summer
- Eastern Summer

#### Targeting 2022

- California
- New Mexico
- Other Interested States

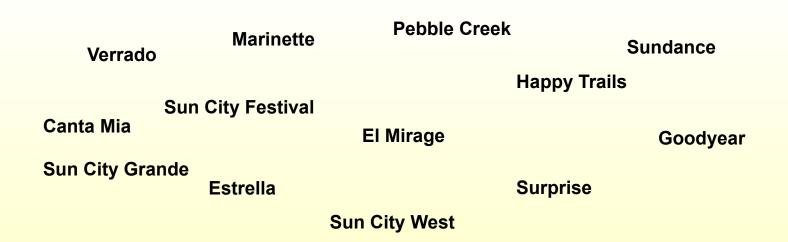




- People like to be on teams!
  - Less intimidating
  - Easier to meet new players and improve skills
  - Fun to visit other players clubs/venues
  - Fun to have a balance of competitive and social play at your skill level
  - People who play at City courts now enjoy playing APPL team-based league pickleball
- APPL appeals to all skill levels and supports the objectives those interested in developing pickleball in their communities.



## **West Valley Expansion**



- Representatives from the above communities create the West Valley Region APPL Core
- Each community can create as many teams as they want
- Court availability is critical. Several asking for city courts.
- Schedules are created
- 3-month season with approximately 8-10 matches/team
- Play-offs between APPL Regions West Valley, East Valley, Casa Grande, Southern for the State Championship!



- Bringing Competitive Team Based Pickleball Throughout Arizona -

Thank You!