



- Bringing Competitive Team Based League Pickleball Throughout Arizona -

APPL Frequently Asked Questions (West Valley Region):

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 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 do I join the APPL? - You don't really "join" APPL. If you play on an APPL team there is a team registration fee that you will likely share in the cost and you will sign a waiver. 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. You can subscribe to APPL through the website: arizonapickleballplayersleague.org which will keep you up to date on all that's going on in the league.

What levels of play are there? - The league has divisions for men's and women's doubles with levels from beginners through advanced. Skill groups are: 3.0, 3.5, 4.0 and 4.5/5.0+. A mixed doubles division is available in the East Valley and Casa Grande regions and will likely be added to the West Valley region in the 2022 season.

How much does it cost? - The 2021 APPL registration fee is \$150 per team per season. Team rosters average 10 - 12 players. On a per player basis the cost PER SEASON will continue to be less than the cost to play in ONE USA Pickleball sanctioned tournament.

How often would my team play? - That will vary depending on the number of teams participating in the various skill groups. Ideally there would be 6 teams in each skill group. There can be more. The target is that there would be 8 to 12 matches per season (including regional playoffs).

Where would I play? - You would play home team matches at your selected venue (typically your community's courts). You would play your away matches at your opponent's home courts. At this time we hope to have arrangements with the City of Surprise and other area cities to provide some public courts for APPL matches for teams that may have or be able to use community courts.

How long has the league been playing? - One of the regional leagues within APPL (EVIL) is entering its 9th season. The APPL format was piloted successfully in 2019 and completed its first season in 2020. Last year 95 teams consisting of over 1100 players participated in APPL in 2 regions. The Casa Grande Region (SAPPL) and the East Valley Region (RAPPL and EVIL). We are adding the Southern Region (Tucson area) and the West Valley Region (Surprise, Goodyear, Buckeye, etc.) this year.

How do I get on a team? - Contact your club administration to see if your club is participating and express your interest. Each club/community is asked to have a League Administrator who will help get your teams set up and work with APPL representatives to help get you started. You can also form a team independently if you wish. There is also a form 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. You would still need a home court venue. You can email APPL at info@arizonapickleballplayersleague.org for more information.

Do I have to be a member of a club to participate? - No. You can be on any team from any club. It is not unusual, especially in the first season, that teams will form that include players from different communities. Those teams simply need to have a home court venue. Typically most communities will look internally first and then look outside to fill their team rosters but that is not a requirement.

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. 2 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 USA Pickleball 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 West Valley Region age requirement is the same as the RAPPL, SAPPL and TAPPL Regional leagues, 18 years and over.

When does the next season start? - Next season starts the first week of January, 2021. Pre registration begins August 1st, 2020. Registration ends November 15th, 2020.

Where can I get more information? - The APPL website is: arizonapickleballplayersleague.org . There you can find more detailed information and add yourself to the subscription list. 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.

10.22.20