

PEM Pickleball Club (PEMPC) Rating Procedure

Effective May 17, 2022

FORWARD

The following rating procedure, as amended by Board approval on May 14, 2022, will be used for ALL FUTURE skill ratings and will be used for Pueblo El Mirage Pickleball Club (PEMFC) organized and in-house tournament play (aka Karl Kunz Memorial Pickleball Tournament). Members are encouraged to play at their club rating for USAPA sanctioned tournaments and USSP tournaments hosted at PEM. For in-house tournaments, such as the Karl Kunz Memorial Tournament, members must play at their club rating, or; UTPR, WPR, IPTPA, USSP, whichever is the higher rating. (*See below for acronym definitions.*)

The intent of the following procedure is not to diminish ratings received through previous Club sanctioned procedures but to improve the process and maintain ratings in-house through a system with integrity and equity for all players. Specifically:

- A player's PEMPC rating will not be less than the player's valid UTPR, IPTPA, or WPR rating or any other rating acknowledged by PEMPC.
 - *However*, if a player deems himself/herself not competitive or having fun playing at his/her current skill rating level, the player may voluntarily move to a lower skill rating level at any time.
- When a player comes into PEMPC with a rating other than UTPR, IPTPA, or WPR rating, the player will be placed at one-half rating level lower. The Orientation Team will label the player in the LivePickleball.com system with an 'E' and notify the Rate Testing Team. The Ratings Test Team will arrange for that player to be evaluated as quickly as possible.
 - Until our Club has a team of 4.5 and 5.0 players to assist with ratings, ratings to the 4.5 and 5.0 levels will continue to be sought through the UTPR or IPTPA process.
- Players who wish to play a more competitive game, should select Round Robins with the term 'COMPETITIVE' in the title.
 - Players working toward an increase in rating level, must play in gender-specific COMPETITIVE Round Robins and have scores recorded once the rating increase process begins.
 - If the player wishes to record scores, the Lead in that event will record the scores. Players may not record their own scores.
- Players wanting to play in a purely social environment and not wanting to move up in rating level, should select Round Robins with the term 'SOCIAL' in the title.
 - Players will NOT record scores in SOCIAL Round Robins.

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Testing vs. Evaluating

- All players new to PEM should attend an Orientation to establish an account on LivePickleball.com, learn PPC rules, and be trained to use the LivePickleball.com system in order to sign up for Organized Play events.
 - After Orientation, if a Lead identifies a player has been placed at too low a rating level, the lead will alert the Board or Ratings Test Team to schedule a personal evaluation by the Evaluation Team.

General and Universal Rules that Apply to ALL rating levels

- Players wishing to pursue an increase in rating, can find the qualifying procedures for each rating level on the following pages.
 - Players who qualified to test at the end of the 2021-2022 season, but left the resort before they could be tested (or completed and failed a first test) will have the option of testing according to the 2021-2022 Rating Procedure or the 2022-2023 Rating Procedure. These players will have two weeks after arriving in the resort to test (provided there is an adequate number of players in the resort to test), or else will be returned to their original level and begin the process again.
 - This 'grandfather' clause will expire at the end of the 2022-2023 season.
- All Testing Candidates will be evaluated based on both skill assessment and play observation by a team of evaluators at least one full rating level above the Testing Candidate. In other words, a 2.0 player who wishes to test for 2.5 will be evaluated by individuals no lower than 3.0 in rating. Players at the 2.5 level who wish to test for 3.0 will be evaluated by 3.5 players or higher. And 3.0 players testing for 3.5 will be evaluated by 4.0 players.
 - For Beginners - 2.5, the Leads/Trainers at each level will evaluate players for movement up to the next levels.
 - For the 3.0, 3.5, and 4.0 rating evaluations - the Ratings Test Team will establish an Evaluation Team of at least three (3) seasoned players and identify these team members to the Board.
 - Scored Round Robins will begin after October 1 when there are enough players and volunteers to serve as Event Leads and Evaluators.
- Skills Assessments will be based on USAPA and IPTPA skills requirements.
 - All Skill Assessment forms can be found on the PEMPickleball.com website under the TRAINING tab.
 - Skills assessment information may also be accessed at USAPickleball.com and IPTPA.com.

Beginners to the 2.5 Rating Level:

Upward movement in rating from 1.0-2.5 will be done in PEMPC's Organized Training System using the IPTPA rating descriptions. The player must demonstrate skills and game finesse by "testing" prior to being moved to the 1.5, 2.0 and 2.5 rating levels.

- 1.0-1.5 Players:
 - Players who are new to pickleball will attend the 1.0/1.5 Training and Mentoring Round Robins. There will be a weekly event to evaluate testing players' skill level to advance to the 2.0 group. Advancing players can choose to be a social player or enroll in the 2.0 training to advance to the 2.5 level.

- 2.0 Players:
 - The 2.0 player will attend four training sessions in order to cover the following: The 4 lessons are:
 - Dinking
 - Ground strokes; Serve, Return of Serve
 - Punch Volley/Drop Volley; Drop Shots
 - Overheads; Lobs; Game Preparation and Game Strategy
 - After 2.0 training is complete, a player may request to be tested for 2.5.
 - If the 2.0 Lead agrees that the player is ready to advance, the Testing Candidate will be moved to 2.5P in order to play two weeks within the 2.5 group.

- 2.5 Candidates:
 - After the two-week practice period (or earlier, if the player feels ready), the Candidate will be tested by the 2.5 Training Lead or another designated instructor, using a Skill Assessment form as criteria and game-playing observation. Game scores do not factor in this assessment.
 - The 2.5 Lead will compile all the information, determine the appropriate rating, and communicate it to the Testing Candidate.
 - Successful Testing Candidates will be placed at 2.5**S** designation until the 2.5 Lead feels confident that the player is ready to play with more seasoned 2.5 players (2.5**C**).
 - Players who are not recommended to move to 2.5 will have their designation returned to 2.0. They may request to test again two (2) weeks after their latest test.
 - At any time during the two-week experiential period, the Testing Candidate may elect to return to his/her previous rating for more practice and mentoring.
 - The 2.5 Assessment Tests will be gender specific.

- With input from 3.0 Lead/s, the 2.0 Lead/Trainer will have the authority to move 2.0 players to 2.5.

Players Moving to the 3.0, 3.5, and 4.0 Rating Level

Players at the 3.0-4.0 level are both social and competitive. In order to bring continuity to the rating placement of players, and offer a fair and accurate evaluation system, potential 3.0-4.0 players will complete a combination of scored Round Robins and play evaluation from an Evaluation Team at least one rating level above the testing player.

- Testing Candidates may be recommended by a Lead or a member of the Evaluation Team; or the prospective candidate may submit a request to any Board Member, by sending an email request to pempbcboard@gmail.com, by contacting any member of the Ratings Test Team, or by contacting the competitive lead.
- The Testing Candidate will move through a THREE-STEP evaluation process that will take four to five (4-5) weeks to complete.
- All 3.0-4.0 players are strongly encouraged to attend mentoring and/or skills clinics before starting the testing procedure.
- Players may move up in rating more than once in a season.

TESTING PROCEDURE:

- STEP ONE
 - In order to qualify for testing for the next rating level, players will complete three (3) scored Round Robins at their current rating level.
 - Both TOP and BOTTOM scores will be dropped from each Round Robin.
 - The Testing Candidate's scores must average 90% with these three (3) Round Robins.
 - If the candidate achieves a 95% average with only two (2) Round Robins, the candidate will be deemed qualified to test.
- STEP TWO
 - Once the 90% (95%) Round Robin average is achieved, the Testing Candidate will be moved to the next rating level up as a provisional (P) player, during which time they will be observed and evaluated by a three-four (3-4) member team of evaluators at least one rating level above the test player.
 - Testing Candidates will play at the higher, provisional rating level for a maximum of two weeks.
 - The Evaluation Team will observe from time to time during these two practice weeks in order to watch the testing candidate when he/she is not under excess pressure.
 - If a Testing Candidate is male, the Evaluation Team will be all-male. The same will apply for female Testing Candidates.
 - Testing Candidates may voluntarily return to their original rating level at any time.
 - After two weeks of experiential play at the target rating level, the provisional player may:
 - Return to his/her original rating level, or
 - With the recommendation of the Evaluation Team, test for the target rating level.

- STEP THREE:
 - Testing Candidates will play three gender-specific Skinny-Singles games against three different players in the target rating level while being evaluated by a team of three-five (3-5) evaluators who are one full rating level above the Testing Candidate.
 - Skinny-Singles games will be played for eight (8) minutes each.
 - Scores will not be recorded during testing skinny-single games.
 - Final rating will be by evaluation. The Evaluation Team will meet after the Skinny-Singles Round Robin and determine the appropriate level for the Testing Candidate.
 - The majority of Evaluation Team members must approve the Test Candidate in order for the Candidate to be approved for rating increase to his/her target level.
 - If the Evaluation Team feels the player is not yet ready to play at the target rating level, the player will return to the original rating level. The player may test again in two (2) weeks and begin the testing process at STEP THREE.
- The Rating Test Team will compile all the information, determine the appropriate rating, and provide the player with a written evaluation of his/her strengths and weaknesses, and an approval or disapproval for moving the player to the next rating level.

Players 4.0+ Skill Ratings:

For all players of the 4.0+ skill ratings group, it was decided to beta test a suggestion from Pickleball Pro, Rob Davidson. Along with the normal Social Round Robins, there will be Competitive Ladders, as an objective method of providing competitive play. When sufficient players above the 4.5 rating level are playing in Organized Play, then a separate event for them will be created, if they desire.

Definitions:

PEMPC	-	Pueblo El Mirage Pickleball Club
PEM	-	Pueblo El Mirage RV and Golf Resort
UTPR or UTPR	-	USA Pickleball Tournament Player Ratings
USAP	-	USA Pickleball
WPR	-	World Pickleball Ranking
IPTPA	-	International Pickleball Tournament
USSP	-	U.S. Senior Pickleball