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 ✓It's the Rule!  
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 ✓What's your PB skill level?



## Georgia State Games June 24-26

This year our State Games will again be held on the 16 Pickleball courts located at Kennesaw Mountain High School in Cobb County, same venue as last year. This three-day event will include:

Men's and Women's singles . . . .Friday afternoon, June 24

Men's and Women's doubles . . . .Saturday, June 25

Mixed doubles . . . . .Sunday, June 26

This is an age-group tournament, with skill levels in each age group. Skill levels are

- Novice, 3.0-and-under
- Intermediate, 3.5
- Advanced 4.0 and above
- Age groups are 18-and-under, 19+, 35+, 50+, 60+, 70+.

We are using a new format this year. Most double-elimination tournaments lose most of the players in the first few of rounds. Many players drive a long distance and pay their entry fee to participate in only three games and then are out of the tournament. This year we will have a qualifying round-robin play in all brackets, with the top teams moving on to the championship round. This format players should allow players to play more games. We will also be able to start and complete a bracket on several courts and play until a champion is declared. Also, if we have to combine classes players can still medal in the classification they entered. No waiting for open courts or other matches to be completed.

Courts will be taped and we will be using the Dura Fast 40 Yellow Ball.

For more information: <http://georgiagames.org/2015-pickelball-championships/>

Winners in the State Games qualify to participate in the National Championship to be held in Grand Rapids, Michigan in August of 2017.

**The National Congress of State Games:** The National Congress of State Games (NCSG) is a membership organization comprised of 30 Summer State Games and ten Winter State Games organizations and a member of the US Olympic Committee's Multi Sport Organizational Council. The mission of NCSG is to support State Games member organizations in the promotion of health, fitness and character building through Olympic-Style competitions and physical activities. The NCSG is also the rights holder of the State Games of America, an Olympic-style event featuring competition between State Games medal winners (gold, silver, bronze) from across the nation.

**Volunteers Needed.** It requires a lot of hands to put together and run a successful event. Last year was a success due to the help we received from all of the great volunteers and this year we will need you again. Contact Bill Hess at [b3779@hotmail.com](mailto:b3779@hotmail.com) if you can offer help or provide loaner pickleball nets.

1. A loan of at least ten portable pickleball nets, if you can let us have them for the weekend.
2. A team to help prepare brackets and match sheets on Wed. or Thurs. before the event.
3. Many hands to help mark and tape courts and set up event equipment on Fri. AM and Sat. AM.
4. Volunteers to help check in players on all three days.
5. Volunteers to help post results and make sure all courts are being used.
6. Volunteers to help clean up event site on Sun.

### From the Kitchen

Apologies for the late delivery of the April GPB. With the arrival of spring and the many projects and happenings around the state, it's easy to get behind and we missed our mid-month deadline. If there is anything you would like added to any issue, please try to have it to us by the 13th of the month. See submission guidelines on the last page of this issue if you have any questions.

—Bill Hess, Regional Ambassador

### THE GPB

The **GPB** is produced for all our Georgia pickleball players to enjoy hearing about tournaments, tidbits, photos and fellow players throughout the state. The information herein is provided by readers, ambassadors and players like you. So, talk to us.

You have news, tidbits or photos to share in our next GPB bulletin? Simply email your text and/or jpg. files to the address below. See our submission guidelines on the last page of this bulletin. To subscribe to our bulletin, use the email below. Feel free to forward this pdf to any of your friends.

**Editor**

Bill Hess

Georgia District Ambassador

USA Pickleball Association

**Copy Editor**

Carole Hess

**Graphics, Design & Layout**

Fran Conn

**Contributors**

You and your fellow players

**Photography**

You and your fellow players

Submit your information and photos to:

[B3779@hotmail.com](mailto:B3779@hotmail.com)

# Happenings Around Georgia

## SO YOU WANT TO PLAY PICKLEBALL!

### A National Champion Player/Instructor is coming to Hiawassee!

Deb Harrison—Gold winner, author, instructor and Picklepongdeb of YouTube-fame tutorials is coming to Hiawassee for a three-day workshop June 16–18. Whether you have never picked up a paddle, or you are a tournament player, Deb's teaching and coaching skills are sure to take your game to the next level.

In 2005, prior to moving to the Pickleball capital of the South - the Villages in Central Florida, Deb had a history of physical excellence and coaching success. Deb graduated with a major in Physical Education at the University of Massachusetts, and was also captain of the field hockey team and selected to the United States Field Hockey Squad from 1968–1972. Deb received her masters degree from East Stroudsburg State College in Pennsylvania then proceeded to coach/teach at Pine Manor College in Boston, Mount Holyoke College in Northampton, and the University of Bridgeport in Connecticut. Deb is the author of "Intense Pickleball Camp" Take it to the Next Level. She is also the creator of the ongoing instructional series on YouTube with 70-plus episodes devoted to improving skill components.

Thursday 5PM, June 16, our communities will wel-

come Deb with a "Meet and Greet Potluck" at the Towns County Recreation Center in Hiawassee.

Friday morning at 9, Deb starts the introductory three-hour workshop which includes learning skills like freeze blocks, poke strokes, bump ups, topspin return of drop and 16 more. At 1PM the intermediate workshop will run for three intense hours and demonstrations of more than 40 skills like overhead blocks, wong shot, staub shot, Earlie shot, spin serves, chip-and-charge return, to name a few. Each three-hour workshop is \$55.

Deb is a skilled Instructor who practices what she teaches and has won the following titles:

- 2016 Gold Womens Doubles 5.0 Atlantic Coast Regional
- 2015 Silver Womens Singles 65-69 Huntsman World Senior Games
- 2015 Gold Womens Doubles 55-59 Huntsman World Senior Games
- 2015 Silver Womens Doubles 65+ National Senior Games
- 2015 Gold Womens Doubles 5.0 Winter Garden
- 2015 Gold Womens Doubles 5.0 Riverbend
- 2015 Gold Womens Doubles 5.0 Englewood
- 2015 Gold Mixed Doubles 5.0 Naples
- 2015 Gold Womens Doubles 5.0 Myrtle Beach Classic

If you would like to attend one of these Pickleball Intense Workshops, contact the Towns County Pickleball Ambassadors—John Hall or Peggy Castorri at [pickleballpeggy16@gmail.com](mailto:pickleballpeggy16@gmail.com). Space is limited. There is a sign-up form on page 3. ●

## Atlanta Area Pickleball League's Inaugural Season a Success

*From the Editor: Many Pickleball players enjoy casual play: no schedule, play when we want, no rainouts or makeups, arrive and leave at our leisure. However there are a number of players looking for a structured competitive league format. This is now being offered by the Atlanta Pickleball Association. We have invited the ATLPBA to contribute an article each month to keep all our Georgia readers informed about the activities of this new organization.*

Established by Sugar Hill resident Chad Cromwell, the Atlanta Pickleball Association (ATLPBA) has begun its inaugural season in earnest. Within one month of launching the ATLPBA website, over 80 players from 8 subdivisions in North Gwinnett and Cumming areas registered for the Spring season, which is underway. "We wanted to have a set seasonal league for Pickleball like other sports, this allows for dedicated places to play, known date/times and allows teams to get better towards the seasonal championship day!", said Chad.

Chad and his principal partner, Sean Parent, attribute the league's immediate success to word-of-mouth advertising and clinics conducted at subdivisions and neighborhoods in the North Atlanta Metro area. Chad describes ATLPBA as a league of inclusion. "We welcome players from all skill levels and age groups. We want our league members to have fun while learning how to play the fastest growing sport in the country."

"We're very excited about ATLPBA's potential and growth," says Sean, "and we look forward to expanding soon to surrounding counties in the metro Atlanta area."

Chad and Sean are not just owners, but avid players as well. Both play on their respective neighborhood teams during Sunday evening league games, participate in practices every Tuesday, and compete on an Indoor Pickleball team on Wednesdays in Sugar Hill.

This spring season concludes on May 8, with the first Atlanta Pickleball Spring 2016 Playoff Tournament commencing on May 15, from 5pm to 9:00pm, at James Creek Tennis Center in Cumming. Although this event wraps up the spring season for ATLPBA, all current and future Pickleballers are invited to attend. There will be open play courts available free to the public during tournament play, so we hope you'll come by and participate in the fun!

The ATLPBA 2016 Summer League begins on June 8, with registration opening on April 25. The summer league schedule is as follows:



Doubles 5-Line Team Play:	Sundays
6:30pm-8:30pm June 12-Aug. 7	
Doubles Round Robin:	Wednesdays
7:00pm-8:30pm	June 8-Aug. 3
Singles Round Robin	Saturdays
3:00pm-5:00pm	June 11-Aug. 6

Please visit the ATLPBA website ([atlpba.org](http://atlpba.org)) to register, and email [info@atlpba.org](mailto:info@atlpba.org) if you have any questions.

ATLPBA Events for Calendar Submission:  
Name: Atlanta Pickleball Association 2016 Spring Playoffs

Date: Sunday, May 15, 2016 5-9 PM  
Location: James Creek Tennis Center, 3525 Melody Mizer Ln., Cumming, GA 30041

Contacts: [info@atlpba.org](mailto:info@atlpba.org), (470) 238-8979

Age Groups: 18+ ATLPBA League Members (open courts are available to the public during this event so all are welcomed).

Website: <http://www.atlpba.org>, <https://www.facebook.com/atlpba>

Name: Atlanta Pickleball Association 2016 Summer League

Dates: Registration opens Monday, April 25. Season begins June 8 and ends August 7

Location: Neighborhood/Subdivision Tennis Courts

Contacts: [info@atlpba.org](mailto:info@atlpba.org), (470) 238-8979

Age Groups: 18+ Website: <http://www.atlpba.org>, <https://www.facebook.com/atlpba>

# Deb Harrison Workshops

*This is an AWESOME opportunity to invest in your game with the Master technician, author and Pickleball instructor, Deb Harrison.*

## **Fundamentals Workshop:** For players 2.0-3.0

Friday, June 17      9AM–noon      3-hour workshop      \$55 per person

## **Intermediate/Advanced Workshop:** For players 3.5 and above

Friday, June 17      1PM–4PM,      3-hour workshop      \$55 per person

Saturday, June 18      9AM–noon

*(We will offer this session after Friday fills up, or note if you prefer this session time)*

## **Private/Semi/ Group**      Hourly \$66      \$33–two,      \$27.50–four

Friday, June 17      4:30PM–5:30 or 5:30–6:30PM

Saturday, June 18      1, 2, 3, 4, and 5PM

## Choose your Deb Harrison Workshop

**Name (please print)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Workshop:** Select the appropriate boxes for level, date and time:

Fundamentals       Friday June 17 9AM–noon      \$55 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Intermediate/Advanced       Fri., June 17 1PM–4PM      \$55 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Sat. June 18 9AM–noon      \$55 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Private Hour • \$66       Semi-private hour • \$33 each       Group • \$27.50 each

Friday, June 17       4:30PM–5:30       5:30–6:30PM

Saturday, June 18       1PM       2PM       3PM       4PM       5PM      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total due \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

Email this from to: [Pickleballpeggy16@gmail.com](mailto:Pickleballpeggy16@gmail.com)

Payment in advance: Make check payable to Towns County Pickleball Fund

Mail to: Peggy Castorri, 607 Mill ridge Road, Hiawassee, GA 30546

Note: Space is limited. Spaces are reserved on a first-come, first-served basis.

You may reply via email, however, payment insures your reservation.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_





# Georgia Upcoming Tournaments

## White County's Habitat For Humanity 2016 Pickleball Tournament • June 10-12

Registration is open for our Cleveland tournament to be held on ten indoor temporary courts at our middle school gym complex. We can accommodate a LOT of Pickleball players over the three-day tournament. The set-up will be fun for spectators, too.

To register, go to [www.pickleballtournaments.com](http://www.pickleballtournaments.com). Click on the link at the top that says "Tournaments". The drop-down gives you more choices. Click on "Tournaments by Country/State". Click on "Ga". Find the Habitat logo for the June 10-12 tournament. Click "Register." You do **NOT** have to have a PayPal account. Nonetheless, hit the "Pay with PayPal" button and it gives you options to **pay directly** with your credit card.

Play indoors in June; and help Habitat of NE Georgia support deserving families in White and Habersham Counties. See our flyer below.

We are expecting very high skill level players as well as beginners who will only be playing against other beginners. It is a round robin format designed to accommodate all levels and to be fun and very social.

You may enter in up to two events for the single registration fee of \$35. You do not have to be there for all three days!

Women's Doubles . . . . . Friday, June 10;

Men's Doubles . . . . . Sat June 11

Mixed Doubles . . . . . Sunday, June 12,

*Some dates may change You will be given a specific four-hour time slot on one of those 3 days for each event you register for.*

Do not hesitate to email or call me if you have any questions. I can walk you through registration if necessary. Lots of other links for tournament information, directions, lodging, etc.

USA Pickleball Association Ambassador for White County, GA  
Cell phone: 770-317-1062 or [sauteelodge@gmail.com](mailto:sauteelodge@gmail.com)

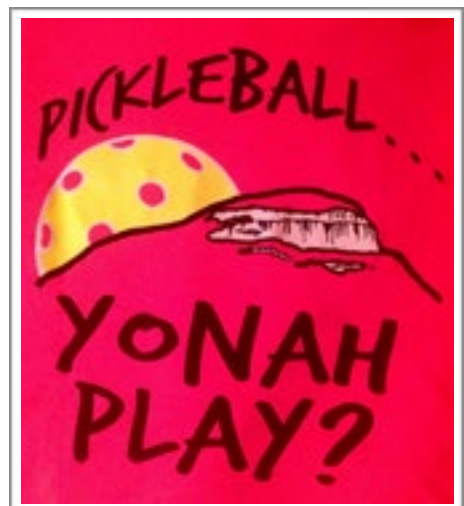
### Habitat for Humanity of NE Georgia INDOOR Pickleball Tournament

June 10th - 12th, 2016 in Cleveland, GA

Nine indoor Pickleball courts in three gymnasiums in one location at White County Middle School Complex  
283 Old Blairsville Road, Cleveland, GA 30528



100% of proceeds will benefit this well respected nonprofit organization that is making dreams come true for deserving families in White and Habersham Counties in Georgia



Supported by Pickleball players from the White County YMCA and Skylake Community near Yonah Mountain in Cleveland, Georgia

**Purpose:** Have fun while playing the greatest sport ever; meet awesome people; and raise money for this well respected not-for-profit organization: <http://www.habitatnega.org>.

- **ROUND ROBIN FORMAT** for all skill levels and all ages 20 and up.
- Men's Doubles; Women's Doubles; and Mixed Doubles. Sorry - no singles events.
- \$35 online entry fee covers up to 2 events
- Regular scoring (only serving team can score); each game to 11; win by 1.
- Beginners (2.5) skill level do **not** name a partner; you will play with and against everyone in your round robin bracket. FUN & SOCIAL!

- Skill level 3.0 to 5.0 need to name a partner on your registration form. If you do not name a partner, we will do our best to find one for you.
- Gold, Silver, and Bronze medals
- Tournament Director reserves the right to change format as registration process is completed and possibly warrants adjustments.

**Time:** 9:00 a.m to 6:00 p.m each day with schedules available to players as to appropriate 4+ hour period to arrive, register, warm-up & play.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** Tournament Director Laurie Lee email: [sauteelodge@gmail.com](mailto:sauteelodge@gmail.com); cell phone 770-317-1062

Registration open 4/26 thru 5/31/2016  
[pickleballtournaments.com](http://pickleballtournaments.com) click on link for Tournaments by STATE, GA, Habitat NEGA

# Georgia Pickleball Club Pages

*Tell us what is going on with your Pickleball group or club: your parties, fund raisers, in-house tournaments & competitions, etc.*

*Our Pickleball friends around the state are always looking for fun events and ideas.*

*This section is for your club news. Send us articles & lots of photos! See submission guidelines on p. 8.*

## Harmony on the Courts

The Harmony on the Lakes Pickleball Club is celebrating the grand opening of their newly resurfaced and lined outdoor Pickleball courts with a Pickleball Ice Cream Social on Sunday May 22 from 2-6PM. Georgia and our Cherokee County USAPA Ambassadors Bill and Carole Hess will hold a beginners clinic starting at 2PM and perform the ribbon cutting at 3:00pm. That will be followed by demonstration games with local 4.0-5.0 Pickleball players at 3:10 and then round robin play for all skill levels from 3:30-6PM. Ice cream with all the toppings will be provided by the HOTLPBC. Bring your favorite beverage and camping chair! The Harmony courts are located at 297 Harmony Lake Drive, Holly Springs, 30115.

The Club's regular playing hours are Mon. and Fri., 9AM, and Wed. at 7PM. The public is welcome. Contact Chip if you would like to play. RSVP at [thunderhead21@comcast.net](mailto:thunderhead21@comcast.net) or 678-492-6314 or join our event on our Facebook page at [facebook.com/groups/1765969953635464/](https://facebook.com/groups/1765969953635464/)



## Peachtree City Georgia Pickleball Club

PRESS RELEASE

Dateline: Mobile, AL Not since the Civil War Battle of Mobile Bay, has the city seen such a one-sided domination. The PTC Pickleball Club entered the Atlantic South Regional Tournament as unknowns as well not knowing what to expect of the competition as it played its first regional tournament. The PTC Club was represented by Sharon Conrad, Greg Conrad, Chris Conrad, Carol Braun, Carolyn Hofer & Al Schriber. With super fan Margaret Schriber cheering them on, the team captured numerous individual and team medals.

**Chris Conrad:** Gold, Men's Singles; Gold, Men's Doubles; Bronze, Mixed Doubles

**Greg Conrad:** Gold, Men's Doubles; Gold, Mixed Doubles

**Sharon Conrad:** Gold, Women's Singles; Gold, Mixed Doubles; Silver, Women's Doubles

**Al Schriber:** Bronze, Men's Singles





# Tournaments Played Around Georgia

## Cherokee County Senior Olympics

On April 16 the Cherokee County Senior Olympics was held once again on the eight resurfaced courts in Pickleball Complex at Lake Arrowhead, in Waleska. As in the past a round robin changing partner's format was used. The weather was perfect and the event went as planned. Players from all over north Georgia played in eight flights. Results are on page 8.





# More fun at the Cherokee Senior Olympics







**CONGRATS TO OUR NEWEST PICKLEBALL LOVE MATCH 🙌**

**CHEROKEE SENIOR OLYMPICS MEDAL WINNERS**

Player's name	Home	Place
<b>Bracket 1</b>		
Alina Robertson	Woodstock	1
Judy Wickes	Cumming	2
Janey Jacobson	Blairsville	3
<b>Bracket 2</b>		
Edward Lauda	Woodstock	1
Randy Heyob	Dallas	2
Dick McCabe	Florida	3
<b>Bracket 3</b>		
John Todd	Marietta	1
Tom Jacobson	Blairsville	2
Tony Rackie	Canton	3
<b>Bracket 4</b>		
Carol Coneen	Canton	1
Janyce Meyers	Canton	2
Lois Eeles	Dallas	3

Player's name	Home	Place
<b>Bracket 5</b>		
Kathi Patrick	Hiawassee	1
Sharon Conrad	Peachtree City	2
Carol Braun	Peachtree City	3
<b>Bracket 6</b>		
Bill Osterhold	Alpharetta	1
Dino Trap	Canton	2
Neal Pascal	Ringold	3
<b>Bracket 7</b>		
Fred Meyers	Canton	1
Paul Sullivan	Canton	2
Jerry Brinegar	Athens	3
<b>Bracket 8</b>		
Roger Estill	Big Canoe	1
Jim Yoder	Woodstock	2
Connor Murphy	Pooler	3



# RULE CHANGES BEGINNING MAY 2016

Many of our Georgia Pickleball player have asked why they should join The United States of America Pickleball Association. The following letter from the USAPA is a prime example of the things they are doing to keep our favorite sport enjoyable for all of us. If you would like to join and support our national organization go to: [www.usapa.org/usapa-membership/](http://www.usapa.org/usapa-membership/)

Paddle and Ball rule changes effective 05/01/2016

Many of you have recently heard comments and/or asked questions regarding coming new rules pertaining to balls and paddles for our sport. In an effort to give you all a heads up prior to USAPA website and newsletter publication, please see the following memorandum from Dennis Dacey, IFP/USAPA Rules Chair.

Jack Thomas, Ambassador Director/VP, USAPA

**Background.** Over the last few years, we have seen a proliferation in the introduction of new paddles and, more recently, balls. Some of these new paddles and balls have barely met or exceeded the applicable specifications set forth in the existing rules. Others, while technically compliant with the present rules, have designs or characteristics that reward players who want the sport to become faster and tilted more toward power and less toward finesse. The USAPA and IFP are committed to preserving Pickleball in a manner that does not favor any one style of player. We adhere to the following maxim: In deciding any matter related to equipment, the IFP is required to interpret the rules in a manner that will preserve the traditional nature and character of the sport and preserve the skills traditionally required to play the sport. The existing rules have proven to be inadequate when evaluating new paddle and ball designs based on this guideline.

**Need for rule changes explained.** In order for the USAPA/IFP to maintain the traditional nature of the sport, it has modified the rules and specifications for paddles and balls over time. As an example, a paddle deflection test was developed a few years ago to help reduce ball speed from paddles that were being made in a manner to produce a trampoline effect. Also, ball specifications were developed to better control their characteristics for play based on what was available at the time. We now see a further need to amend the rules by adopting more exact specifications. Each of the new rules set forth below, except Rule 2.D.7, clarifies allowable limits or characteristics of paddles or balls.

**Effective date.** Although the rules stated below are being amended and added as of November 1, 2015, they will not become effective for existing products until May 1, 2016. There will be a grace period until May 1, 2016 to allow manufacturers time to develop conforming products and to allow players to adapt to those conforming products. In the meantime, paddles and balls that meet current specifications may be used in sanctioned tournaments.

**New amended rules.** The wording of the new rules can be found in the italicized sections below. Explanations in standard type are found immediately above the paddle and ball rule changes.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p><b>1 Paddle rule change.</b> Rule 2.E.2. is modified to specify test criteria for paddle roughness. This Rule change is:</p> <p><b>2 E.2. Surface:</b> The paddle hitting surface shall not contain holes, indentations, rough texturing, tape, or any objects or features that allow a player to impart additional spin on the ball. Paddle roughness is determined using a Starrett SR 100 Surface Roughness Tester. The allowable limits for roughness shall be no greater than 30 micrometers (µm) on the Rz reading (average maximum height, peak to valley), and no greater than 40 micrometers on the Rt reading (maximum height, peak to valley). All readings will be taken in 4 different directions. The paddle hitting surface shall not be adversely reflective, such that it has the potential to obscure the vision of opposing player(s).</p> <p><b>2 Ball rule changes.</b> The specifications are being tightened in a manner to better control and identify balls used for sanctioned tournament play. The new rules are:</p> <p><b>2.D.1. Construction.</b> The ball shall be made of durable material molded with a smooth surface and free of texturing. The ball</p> | <p>can only be one single, uniform color, except for identification markings. The ball may have a slight ridge at the seam as long as it does not significantly affect straight flight characteristics.</p> <p><b>2.D.2. Size.</b> The ball shall be 2.874 inches (73mm) to 2.972 inches (75.5mm) in diameter. The maximum out-of-round diameter variance shall not be greater than +/-0.020 inch (0.50mm).</p> <p><b>2.D.3. Weight.</b> The ball shall weigh between 0.78 and 0.935 ounces (22 and 26.5 grams).</p> <p><b>2.D.5. Hardness.</b> The ball shall have a hardness of 40 to 50 on a Durometer D scale at a temperature of 75 to 80 degrees F (24 to 27 degrees C).</p> <p><b>2.D.6. Design.</b> The ball shall have a minimum of 26 to a maximum of 40 circular holes, with spacing of holes and overall design of the ball conforming to straight flight characteristics. The ball must have a manufacturer's or supplier's name or logo printed or embossed on it.</p> <p><b>2.D.7. Approval.</b> The Tournament Director will choose the tournament ball. The ball(s) selected for play in any IFP member's sanctioned tournament must be named on the official list of approved balls.</p> |
|--|--|

**Conclusion.** Over the next few months, paddles will be reviewed by the IFP/USAPA for roughness based on the new rules. We anticipate that very few currently listed paddles will not meet the new requirements. Also, all balls will be reviewed under the new ball rules. Some will need to be modified by the manufacturers to meet the new bounce, weight, and construction requirements. In addition, they will need to be marked by the manufacturers so that approved balls are easily identifiable for tournament play. The IFP/USAPA believes these new rule changes will help preserve the traditional nature and character of the sport.

Notice of these rule changes will be added to the November Newsletter and shown on the IFP and USAPA websites before the end of the month. Notice will also be communicated to paddle and ball manufacturers.

Regards,

Dennis Dacey, IFP/USAPA Rules Chair



# Finding Your Pickleball Skill Level

## 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 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 3rd 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.

## 4.5

- 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 3rd 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.

## 5.0

- 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 3rd 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



# 2016 GEORGIA PICKLEBALL CALENDAR

With the enormous growth of Pickleball and the growing number of tournaments and events, we are working together to schedule events that don't overlap. With your help The Georgia Pickleball Bulletin will keep the calendar up-to-date every month. Send us your tournament information as soon as possible.

If you have a question feel free to contact us at [B3779@hotmail.com](mailto:B3779@hotmail.com).

**Can't play? Just want to watch? No problem! Too young? Too old? No problem! Everyone's invited!**

TOURNEY/EVENT SITE	2016	LOCATION	CONTACT	AGE	URL / NOTES
Cherokee Co. Senior Olympics Round Robin	April 16	Lake Arrowhead, Waleska	Bill Hess, <a href="mailto:B3779@hotmail.com">B3779@hotmail.com</a>	50+	Cost: \$12. New partner each game <a href="http://cherokeecountyseniorylympics.com/forms-registration-and-sponsorships.html">cherokeecountyseniorylympics.com/forms-registration-and-sponsorships.html</a>
Fulton Golden Games	May 16-23	Alpharetta Community Center	Kevin McDonald <a href="mailto:kmcdonald@alpharetta.ga.us">kmcdonald@alpharetta.ga.us</a>	50+	Cost: \$20. Open to everyone
Harmony Pickleball Courts Grand Opening and Pickleball Social	May 22 3-6PM	297 Harmony Lake Dr., Holly Springs	Chip Hullender <a href="mailto:thunderhead21@comcast.net">thunderhead21@comcast.net</a> 678-492-6314	All	<a href="https://facebook.com/groups/1765969953635464">facebook.com/groups/1765969953635464</a>
Habitat NE GA Indoor Tourney	June 10-12	Cleveland, White Co three-gym complex	Laurie Lee 770.317.1062 <a href="mailto:sauteelodge@gmail.com">sauteelodge@gmail.com</a>	All	Check back later
State Games	June 24-26	TBA	Bill Hess <a href="mailto:B3779@hotmail.com">B3779@hotmail.com</a>	All	Double elimination, skill levels within age groups <a href="http://georgiagames.org/2015-pickelball-championships/">georgiagames.org/2015-pickelball-championships/</a>
Georgia Mountain Spring Classic	May 19-20	Hiawassee Pickleball Center			<a href="http://pickleballspecialties.com/tournaments.html">pickleballspecialties.com/tournaments.html</a> <a href="https://facebook.com/events/1230775256938949/">facebook.com/events/1230775256938949/</a>
N. Georgia Pickleball Club Spring Invitational PB Roundup	May 27-29	Canton			
South Atlantic Regional Tournament	April 7-10	Mobile, Alabama			<a href="http://south.usapa.org/p/tournaments-events.html">south.usapa.org/p/tournaments-events.html</a>
Fall Mountain Tournament	Sept. 16-18	Towns PBall Complex, Augusta		All	USAPA sanctioned tournament
North Georgia Pickleball Club Invitational Round Robin	Sept. 23-25	Canton			

## Georgia Pickleball Bulletin Submission Guidelines

Feel free to submit your contributions to our bulletin.

**Text:** should be in text format, or part of your email. We prefer you do not format your text.

**Photos & images:** should be in **jpg** format (separate from the text file, i.e., do not paste or embed photos into your text or pdf file). The images should be renamed appropriate to your text (***j.smith.jpg; winner.jpg; new courts.jpg***, etc)

**Calendar Events:** If you have an event that you would like added to our GPB Calendar, submit it as a **separate email** with the (1) name of the event; (2) date(s); (3) location; (4) contacts (including email addresses); (5) participants' age groups, and, (6) website if one is available.

**Email all to: Bill Hess • [B3779@hotmail.com](mailto:B3779@hotmail.com)**

