



## The GPB News

The Georgia Pickleball Bulletin will now be sent out six times a year. With the additional demands on us we just do not have the time to produce twelve issues a year. Our event calendar will be kept updated on the web site, [georgiapickleball.com](http://georgiapickleball.com). This web site also has a great partner search site if you are looking for a partner for any of our many Georgia tournament.

## ST. Jude National Indoor Classic

Here is your chance to play in a sanctioned national indoor tournament.



By: USAPA, LakePoint Sports Complex & SSIPA  
Fri 06/15/18 thru Sun 06/17/18  
LakePoint Sports Complex, Cartersville, GA, United States  
USAPA Membership Required through 6/18/2018 Visit [USAPA.org](http://USAPA.org) to join or renew

LakePoint Sports Complex	
	Indoor air conditioned with wood floor- ing

Played on 12 courts

Go to [pickleballtournaments.com](http://pickleballtournaments.com) for registration and more information.

## Georgia State Games

The Georgia State Games Pickleball Tournament registration site is now available on line. See the Upcoming Tournaments page.

<http://georgiagames.org/Pickleball.html>

Tournament will be June 1, 2 and 3 on the 18-court facility in Griffin/Spalding County. It will be a round robin format, with both skill and age groups. Hotel and motels at a very reasonably priced within five minutes of the courts.

## Spalding County Success

### Spalding Co Pickleball Association (SCPA) reaches well beyond Griffin-Spalding County

Reported by by Peter Phelps, SCPA President

Consider the following:

- Our facility is a world-class pickleball complex. We have been rated (by tournament directors, players, and pros) as one of the finest pickleball facilities in the nation.
- We were in the March/April 2017 national *Pickleball Magazine* (a feature article about our extraordinary facility).
- In 2017, we had four tournaments at the Spalding County Pickleball Complex, even though the facility was not completed until late August 2017.
- In 2017, we partnered with the USAPA to host one of their regional tournaments (one of eight across the country) and we partnered with the Super Senior International Pickleball Association(SSIPA) to host the World Championships.
- The Spalding County Pickleball Association just completed a very successful year (2017) at the Spalding County Pickleball Complex in Griffin-Spalding County, Georgia. We had four tournaments in 2017, with the total number of players at 932 (an average of 233 per event)! In every case, we exceeded expectations in terms of participation. The GA State Games and the USAPA Atlantic South Regional (at least) doubled participation from the prior year (at other sites). The Doc Holliday Shootout exceeded our intended cap, and was a great number for the first time out of the box, in the hot month of August. Please note that the GA State Games and the Doc Holliday Shootout were held while construction was still going on ... quite a feat! The SSIPA World Championships was also a first-time ever tournament, and despite being up against the Huntsman World Senior Games in Utah, it drew a remarkable number of participants.

## From the Kitchen

PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT SEASON IS HERE

Not everyone is a tournament player, but you can still enjoy the excitement of a tournament as a spectator. You can enjoy watching players of all levels, from novice to advanced. In Georgia we have tournaments of all sizes from the small local tournament like the Cherokee County Senior Olympics to the larger regional and national events like the St Jude National Indoor Classic, the South Championship Tourney, and the South Atlantic Regional Championships. You will have your choice of going to indoor or outdoor events. Indoors from small local gyms like Grace Life Church in Marietta, mid-size facilities like Rabun and White County to the large indoor facility at Lake Point, in Emerson. Our state is blessed with several large outdoor venues in Hiawassee and Griffin, with mid and small size facilities spread around the state.

Check the Georgia event calendar in this months GPB and find an event to attend. You will have a great time and you will find that you never miss a shot when sitting on the sidelines.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at any time at [b3779@hotmail.com](mailto:b3779@hotmail.com).

Bill Hess

## 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 & 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 and feel free to forward this pdf to any of your friends.

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You and your fellow players

To submit an article, please read the submission recommendations on the last page and email it and photos to:

[b3779@hotmail.com](mailto:b3779@hotmail.com)

• In 2017,26 states were represented in our two majors; approximately 40% of our participants were from Georgia; over 50% of our Georgia participants were from the Atlanta Metro area.

• In 2018, we have six tournaments scheduled (most venues have no more than two per year), including two state-level offerings and two majors by the SSIPA and the USAPA. We are also in the process of negotiating for the World Team Pickleball — Sectionals (leading to the National Championships). We expect to break records, again, in terms of participation. Thousands of people will be visiting our facility.

• We are having a genuine economic impact on our community. We expect that to generate over a million dollars of economic impact by the end of 2018. The Georgia Department of Economic Development says that Pickleball is a *Game Changer* for sports tourism and economic impact in Griffin-Spalding County.

We invite Georgians and people from all over the nation to visit our premier facility in beautiful Wyomia Tyus Olympic Park, Cowan Road, Griffin, Georgia.

# Georgia State Games

**ENTRY FEE:** \$40.00.

## SCHEDULE:

**Sunday, June 3rd, 8:00 AM, Mixed Doubles**

**Advanced (4.0)**      **Elite (4.5 and up)**

Contact for Registration questions: [info@georgiagames.org](mailto:info@georgiagames.org).

To register go to: <http://georgiagames.org/Pickleball.html>

May 17th - May 20th 2018

# 2018 Atlanta Open - "The South" Championships

over **\$60,000 in cash & prizes**

\* see [pickleballtournaments.com](http://pickleballtournaments.com) for more details

Men | Women | Mixed | Senior Events (Pro & Skill)

## FEES:

Registration = \$45 + Skill = \$10 | Pro = \$100 | Senior Pro = \$85

## DETAILS:

Court Surface = Outdoor Tennis      Ball = Dura-40 Yellow

Pro = Double Elimination (Best 2/3 to 11) & (1 to 15)

Skill = Double Elimination (Best 2/3 to 11) & (1 to 15)

## SHOW SCHEDULE:

Thursday, May 17th = Pro Clinics, Open Play, Mixer

Friday, May 18th = Men & Women (Skill Singles, Pro & Senior Pro Singles)

Saturday, May 19th = Men & Women (Skill Doubles, Pro & Senior Pro Doubles)

Sunday, May 20th = Mixed (Skill Doubles, Pro & Senior Pro Doubles)

presented by:

# ELEVEN SOUTH

**Lifetime Athletic & Tennis @ Peachtree Corners**  
6350 Courtside Drive, Peachtree Corners, GA 30082

- Stadium Court
- Pro Locker Rooms
- Grille & Bar
- Pool & Gym
- Pickleball Courts
  - 20 Outdoor
  - 8 Indoor

Tournament Will Be Managed by **Melissa McCurley**

OFFICIAL PADDLE  
OF THE  
ATLANTA OPEN



## Blairsville Pickleball Club Conducts Clinics

Many members of the Blairsville Pickleball Club benefited from intense instruction provided by club volunteers in four clinics held in March. The activity gave participants a chance to improve their skills and knowledge of the game. The experience also gave the volunteer teachers an opportunity to prepare for the clinics to be held for local youth in June.

Students appreciated the time and effort of the volunteer teachers Donnie Woodham, Terry Broadrick, Karen Richards, Bob Haist, Blake Harper, Cathy Berrgreen, and Kathy Patrick.

The club president, Chuck Herrera expressed great appreciation for the space provided in the "rubber gym" on Rec Dept. Drive by the Union County Board of Education.



Row 1: Dave Hickerson, Karleen Hughes, Vickie Herrera, Julie Buffington  
Row 1: Shirley Hickerson, Barbara Prater, Susan Melillo, Bev Shutt, Sheila Garrison  
Row 3: Julie Haggas, Lexi Adkins, Martina Gibboney, Pat Tomczyk, Lois Swan

## Woodbine Walkabout Camp and RV Park

Troy Kilner of the Walkabout Camp and RV Park in Woodbine cuts the ribbon on a new pickleball court March 10 at the Woodbine campground. Immediately to his right and left are Judy and Jerry Goodson of Camden County Pickleball. Campers got an introduction to pickleball and paired off for games at the opening ceremony.

A March 3 ladies day event hosted by Camden County Pickleball got a very positive response and attracted 48 players to Howard Peebles Park in Kingsland. In addition to local pickleballers, players came from Darien, Brunswick and St. Simons Island, and from St. Augustine, Green Cove Springs, Fernandina Beach and Jacksonville in Florida. The play-day will be an annual outing, though Camden Pickleball may try to hold another one later in the year. Karen Petersen is with Nancy Stulpinski (PickleballLadiesDaypk3). From left are Nancy Newkirk, Tonya Lam, Janet Yeager, Barbara Shaw, Linda Fleming and Teddi Harring (PickleballLadiesDaypk4). Shaw from St. Simons Island and Paula Dymond of St. Marys partner for a game (PickleballLadiesDaypk5).





Rome Pickleball Classic

Below are the results from the Rome Pickleball Classic. We had nearly 120 players come out from as far as Knoxville, TN, Macon, Ga, and Birmingham, AL to play in the tournament! This tournament could not have happened without the support of Harbin Clinic in Rome, The Rome-Floyd Parks and Recreation, and our USAPA Ambassador Bill Thornton - who rallied the local players around this tournament.

Mens 3.0 Doubles	1st	Danny Boes/Michael Mcelroy	2nd	Bill Thornton/Don Beckman
Mens 4.0-4.5 Doubles	1st	Nicky Golowich/Chris Wolfe	2nd	Greg Spicer/Paul Midkiff
Mens Senior Doubles	1st	Randy Embree/Bill Thornton	2nd	Greg Stefansson/Kenneth Eeles
Mens 3.5 Doubles	1st	Robert Fite/David Jackson	2nd	Scott Johnston/Douglas Oram
Womens 3.0 Doubles	1st	Daneen England/Ginny Jarvis	2nd	Lesli Crespi/Lili Ding
Womens 3.5 Doubles	1st	Kathy Todd/Kristina Todd	2nd	Gail Johnston/Paulina Bandoly
Mens Open Doubles	1st	Scott Golden/Tripp Hobbs	2nd	Sam Wasko/Joshua Cook
Womens 4.0-4.5 Singles	1st	Kristina Todd	2nd	Teresa Teasley
Mens 3.0-3.5 Singles	1st	Jim Giammarva	2nd	Patrick Blackburn
Mens Open Singles	1st	Jp Selle	2nd	Logan Yerbey
Mens 4.0-4.5 Singles	1st	Nicky Golowich	2nd	Dan Hultquist
Mixed 4.0-4.5 Doubles	1st	Logan Yerbey/Lisa English	2nd	Todd Piester/Carolyn Rumpel
Mixed 3.5 Doubles	1st	Lisa Gardner/David Jackson	2nd	Bill Whatley/Libby Mitchell
Mixed 3.0 Mixed Doubles	1st	Jared Guidry/Daneen England	2nd	Don Beckham/Freda Storey



East Metro Cotton Class Pickleball Tournament"

On February 22 & 24, the Monroe Pickleball Club hosted our first tournament -- "East Metro Cotton Classic." It was great fun, and by all accounts a great success. Over \$1,300 was raised for the Walton County Boys & Girls Club who are our gracious hosts 3-4 times a week for our club's pickleball play. Thank you to the many volunteers and over 50 players who came out to play. We hope to host our second tournament in the fall!





# 2018 GEORGIA PICKLEBALL CALENDAR

As Georgia continues to add new pickleball events we strive to have a complete calendar. Laurie Lee, Ambassador for White County, volunteers to keep it updated. She sends event updates to Fran Conn, our ambassador/designer, before the 10th of each month.

Please check the calendar before setting your event date and send your info to Laurie: [Sauteelodge@gmail.com](mailto:Sauteelodge@gmail.com)

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	2018	LOCATION	CONTACT	AGE	URL / NOTES /
Spalding County Senior Games	April 25	Wyomia Tyus Park 1301 Cowan Rd, Griffin	Lauren Brown <a href="mailto:lbrown@spaldingcounty.com">lbrown@spaldingcounty.com</a> 770.467.4384		Operated by Spalding County and SCPA
Yonah Play? Spring Pickleball Tourney	May 4–6	White County Parks & Rec. 327 Asbestos Rd, Cleveland	Laurie Lee 770.317.1062 <a href="mailto:sauteelodge@gmail.com">sauteelodge@gmail.com</a>	7+	Singles, MD, WD, & Mixed by age and skill level. Registration opens Dec. 1 , 2017 <a href="http://pickleballtournaments.com">pickleballtournaments.com</a>
Georgia Ambassador Retreat	May 11–12	Wyomia Tyus Park 1301 Cowan Rd, Griffin	Bill Hess 770-704-6297 <a href="mailto:b3779@hotmail.com">b3779@hotmail.com</a>		Ambassadors only. Everyone else please avoid scheduling a tourney this weekend.
"The South" Championship Tourney	May 17–20	Lifetime Athletic Center, Norcross	Chad Cromwell <a href="mailto:info@atlpba.com">info@atlpba.com</a> .		Register at <a href="http://pickleballtournaments.com">pickleballtournaments.com</a>
Georgia State Games	June 1–3	Wyomia Tyus Park 1301 Cowan Rd, Griffin	Bill Hess <a href="mailto:b3779@hotmail.com">b3779@hotmail.com</a>		Partnering with SCPA.
Yonah Play? Fun Social for 4-H Club and 'Save the Ga Hemlocks'	June 9	White County Parks & Rec 327 Asbestos Rd, Cleveland	Laurie Lee 770.327.1062 <a href="mailto:sauteelodge@gmail.com">sauteelodge@gmail.com</a>	10+	Fun one-day social with music; round robin format; beginners play with different partner every game; intermediates and advanced name partners; manual registration by emailing contact.
USAPA St. Jude National Indoor Classic	Sanctioned June 21–24	LakePoint Sports Complex, Emerson/Cartersville			Registration will be on <a href="http://PickleballTournaments.com">PickleballTournaments.com</a> . More info to come soon.
Ga Mtn Pball Tourney for CASA	June 30–July 1	Towns County Pball Complex, Hiawassee	Mary Miller 404.290.1434 <a href="mailto:mmiller200@hotmail.com">mmiller200@hotmail.com</a> or John Hall	14+	Raising funds for neglected or abused children. Registration open now on <a href="http://pickleballtournaments.com">pickleballtournaments.com</a> . Sat., 8am to noon: Mens & Women's Doubles. Sunday, 8am to Noon: Mixed Doubles
GraceLife Summer Fun Invitational	Aug 17–18	Grace Life Church, Marietta	Cathy Anderson 404.693.4893 <a href="mailto:eastcobbpickleball@gmail.com">eastcobbpickleball@gmail.com</a>		Invitational only. Round robin format.
Georgia Recreation Parks Assoc ("GRPA") State Championship	Sept 14–16	Wyomia Tyus Park 1301 Cowan Rd, Griffin	Kelly Leger or Robby Milner <a href="mailto:rmilner@spaldingcounty.com">rmilner@spaldingcounty.com</a>		GRPA has approved pickleball as a recreational park competitive sport throughout Georgia. Each district will have representation. SCPA is partnering with Spalding County for this tourney.
SSIPA East Championships	Sanctioned Sept. 18–20	Wyomia Tyus Park 1301 Cowan Rd, Griffin	Ford Roberson, Pres SSIPA	60+	Must be SSIPA & USAPA member. Partnering with SCPA. Registration on <a href="http://PickleballTournaments.com">PickleballTournaments.com</a>
North Georgia Invitational	Sept 28–30	Home of Tom & Ann Earley in Canton	Ann Earley <a href="mailto:go4baroque@iCloud.com">go4baroque@iCloud.com</a>		By invitation only. Skill level 3.5 and above. More info soon.
Ga Mtn Pickleball Fall Classic	Oct 4–7	Towns County Pickleball Complex, Hiawassee	John Hall <a href="mailto:johnpickleball30582@gmail.com">johnpickleball30582@gmail.com</a>		14 outdoor pickleball courts. Format & registration information available soon.
Atlantic South Regionals	Sanctioned Oct 18–21	Wyomia Tyus Park 1301 Cowan Rd, Griffin	Karen Parrish		Partnering with SCPA. Registration on <a href="http://PickleballTournaments.com">PickleballTournaments.com</a>
Special Pops Pickleball Tournament	Oct 26–28	Landings Club 910 Landing Creek Rd., Savannah	Ted Copeland <a href="mailto:tcopelandusa@gmail.com">tcopelandusa@gmail.com</a>		Outdoor courts. Manual registration by email Ted Copeland for forms <a href="http://pickleballtournaments.com">pickleballtournaments.com</a>
Yonah Play? Fall Pickleball Tourney	Nov 2–4	White County Parks & Rec. 327 Asbestos Rd, Cleveland	Laurie Lee 770.317.1062 <a href="mailto:sauteelodge@gmail.com">sauteelodge@gmail.com</a>	7+	Singles, MD, WD, & Mixed by age and skill level <a href="http://pickleballtournaments.com">pickleballtournaments.com</a>
Turkey Shoot Out Pickleball Tourney	Nov 16–18	Rabun County Rec Center 400 Rabun Park Drive, Tiger	Amy Martin <a href="mailto:Amy.martin@rabuncounty.gov">Amy.martin@rabuncounty.gov</a> 706-782-4600	7+	9 indoor courts in two side-by-side gyms. Round robin format. Registration will be on <a href="http://www.pickleballtournaments.com">www.pickleballtournaments.com</a>

Looking for a place to play pickleball ...  
but were afraid to ask? It's easy peasy.

Go to [usapa.org/places-to-play-pickleball/](http://usapa.org/places-to-play-pickleball/) and click on your state.  
You will not only find places to play but who to email or call with questions as well.

Want to submit an article or an opinion to the GPB?  
Send it to us and do your best to follow our guidelines.  
We will assist you in every way we can. Your contribution is important to our pickleball community.

## Submission Guidelines

### Georgia Pickleball Bulletin

Feel free to submit your stories and photos to our bulletin.

**Text** | Plain text format (.txt), or, it can be part of your email. Please do not **format** text: no tabs, centering, bullets, double spaces, etc.

**Photos & images** | Use jpg format (separate from the text file) Please do not paste or embed photos into your text file. If possible, give a simple name to your photos linking them to your text.

**Calendar Events** | Submit calendar events as a **separate email** with the information above.

**A Reminder** | The word pickleball is all lowercase, it is not capitalized

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

## 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



# Just the Facts...

Pickleball is a court sport played on a badminton-sized court with the net set to a height of 34 inches at the center. It is played with a perforated plastic ball similar to a wiffle ball and composite or wooden paddles about twice the size of ping-pong paddles. It can be played indoors or outdoors and is easy for beginners to learn, but can develop into a fast-paced, competitive game for experienced players. In addition, the game has developed a passionate following due to its friendly, social nature, and its multi-generational appeal.

Pickleball can be played as singles or doubles. New players can learn the basic rules quickly in a single session. No special apparel is needed – just something comfortable and appropriate for a court sport. Equipment is inexpensive and easily portable. The game can be played by all ages and is particularly popular in school P.E. programs and in adult living communities.

The sport is governed by the USA Pickleball Association (USAPA.org), which maintains the rules, promotes the sport, sanctions tournaments, and provides player rankings. For more information, please visit: [www.usapa.org](http://www.usapa.org)

## History

2018 marks the 53rd Anniversary of pickleball, as it was invented in 1965 on Bainbridge Island, a short ferry ride from Seattle, by three enterprising dads – Joel Pritchard, Bill Bell, and Barney McCallum. Their children were bored with their usual summertime activities. It evolved from the original handmade equipment and simple rules into a popular sport throughout North America and is now taking off in other parts of the world.

The origin of the game's name is thought to be derived from Joel Pritchard's family cocker spaniel, "Pickles," who loved to chase stray balls and hide them in the bushes.

## The Court

A pickleball court is 20' x 44' for both singles and doubles. The net is hung at 36" at the ends and hangs 34" in the middle. A non-volley zone extends 7' back from the net on each side, commonly called "the kitchen." In 2017, USAPA and the American Sports Builders Association (ASBA) co-produced and released an official pickleball courts construction and maintenance manual for the industry. Copies of this manual can be purchased at: <https://www.sportsbuilders.org/publications/>

## The Equipment

Competitive paddles used in pickleball are constructed from a high-tech composite, ranging in cost from \$50-\$150 each. An official pickleball is made of plastic and is between .78 to .935 ounces and 2.874 to 2.972 inches in diameter. There are no color restrictions other than the ball must be a single, consistent color. The USAPA has tested and approved a number of outdoor and indoor balls for official tournament play. Visit [http://ifpickleball.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/IFP\\_Paddle\\_Test\\_Results.pdf](http://ifpickleball.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/IFP_Paddle_Test_Results.pdf) and <http://ifpickleball.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/List-of-Approved-Balls.pdf> for testing results.

## Places To Play

Every US state and all Canadian provinces have pickleball venues. Senior residence communities, YMCAs, local community recreation centers, schools and parks are just some of the places likely to have pickleball courts. The USAPA compiles the most up-to-date and comprehensive listing of places to play at <https://www.places2play.org/>. The known places to play total 5,883, in increase of 1,136 or 94.6 locations per month during 2017.

## Tournaments

The USAPA supports and sanctions tournaments throughout the United States. See <https://www.usapa.org/events/> for a current list of upcoming pickleball tournaments. In 2009, the USAPA held the first National Pickleball Tournament in Buckeye, Arizona. Over 400 players participated in divisions for all ages. In 2017, the USAPA National Championships was the largest tournament to date, with more than 1,300 registered players competing in Casa Grande, Arizona. See <https://usapa.org/2017-national-championships/> for detailed information. CBS Sports Network carried a two hour nationally televised broadcast of the event.

## Estimated Pickleball Players Within the U.S.

Sports & Fitness Industry Association (SFIA) 2017 Pickleball Participant Report, they reported pickleball currently has 2.815 million players in the US an increase of 12.3 % over last year. SFIA is the premier trade association for top brands, manufacturers, retailers and marketers in the American sporting goods and fitness industry 1906. Additional details from the detailed 2016 SFIA Report:

- 1.57 million were "Casual" participants who play 1-7 times a year
- 930 thousand were "Core" participants who play 8 or more times a year
- The rate of growth in participation from 2014 to 2015 was 1.8%, from 2.462 million to 2.506 million (Note: this growth rate is likely underestimated since 2014 was the first year for including pickleball in the SFIA report and the base number is open to question)
  - ♦ Comparing Casual and Core participants:
  - ♦ Casual were 63% male and 37% female
  - ♦ Core were 73% male and 27% female

The age breakdown for Casual and Core are very different... with Core players being, on average, significantly older

- ♦ ages 6-17: Casual 18.5%; Core 0.8%
- ♦ ages 18-34: Casual 11.7%; Core 5.5%
- ♦ ages 35-54: Casual 29.4%; Core 19.2%
- ♦ ages 55-64: Casual 7.7%; Core 31.8%

- ♦ age 65+: Casual 5.4%; Core 42.7%
  - 13% of Casual participants and 75% of Core participants are age 55 and older
  - The 2.5 million total participants represent 0.9% of the US population
  - The regions with the largest number of Core participants were
    - ♦ Pacific (CA, OR, WA) = 263,000
    - ♦ East North Central (WI, MI, IL, OH, IN) = 200,000
    - ♦ South Atlantic (FL, GA, SC, NC, VA, WV, DC) = 174,000
- Any citation of this data should reference the SFIA report as its source.

The USAPA was formed in 2005 to promote the sport. It maintains the official rules, sanctions tournaments, provides player rankings and produces the annual National Pickleball Tournament. It is run by an Executive Director and a volunteer board of directors supported by thousands of dues-paying members.

**USAPA Ambassador Program** USAPA currently has a network of over 1,600 volunteer ambassadors who have pledged to promote the sport of pickleball and the USAPA in their local area. They serve as local representatives for USAPA for all activities related to pickleball within the area they represent. Ambassadors support and abide by all official rules, assist with local clinics/tournaments and look for opportunities to add/grow the game in their community. A USAPA Ambassador Search feature can be found at [https://memberleap.com/members/directory/search\\_USAPA.php?ambassadors](https://memberleap.com/members/directory/search_USAPA.php?ambassadors).

**Community Grant Program** A USAPA Community Grant will provide current USAPA members a maximum of \$250 reimbursement for the purchase of qualified pickleball equipment dedicated to a specific location. Special considerations will be given to locations with written "new player" training programs, areas with few pickleball locations in the vicinity, and individuals and groups that USAPA deems most in need of financial assistance. For more information please click on the following link: <https://www.usapa.org/usapa-grant-program-rules/> High School Grant Program The High School Grant Program will award a maximum of \$350 in reimbursement to USAPA members for the purchase of start-up pickleball equipment for regular high school physical education classes and after school programs. The grants funding will be equally targeted to every defined USAPA region and when feasible awarded to different communities within the region. Considerations will be given to schools and districts where pickleball is being introduced into the high school physical education curriculum and schools that USAPA deems most in need of financial assistance. For more information please click on the following link: <https://www.usapa.org/usapa-high-school-grant-program/>

## 2017 USAPA Facts

- Places to Play: USAPA Places to Play Database: 5,883
- Membership : 22,321 (increase of 5,526 or 460 per month)
- Total Courts: 21,154 (increase of 4,605 or 384 per month)
- Ambassadors: 1,640
- Grants: USAPA awarded 119 Community Grants and 1 High School Grant, distributed over \$24,000 for pickleball equipment in local communities. Pickleball Central joined USAPA and donated over 700 wooden paddles to various programs.
- 2017 USAPA Nationals: USAPA 2017 Nationals set a new player registration record with over 1,300 registered players
- Fundraising: USAPA raised over \$8,000 in support of the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital
- Player Ratings: The number of officially rated players went from 6,000 on 1/1/2016 to 8,638 on 12/31/17. That's a 2,638 annual increase in initial ratings for new players which was roughly a 30% increase in one year. In addition, there were approximately 800 players who had a rating but required a rating change.
- Certified Referees: USAPA certified referees grew to 104 certified referees
- Referee Evaluators: USAPA trained and approved 5 new certified Referee Evaluators
- USAPA Regions: expanded from 8 to 11 regions
- Medal Matches: All medal matches in the 2017 USAPA Nationals were called by certified referees
- Hall of Fame: USAPA and the International Pickleball Teaching Professional Association (IPTPA) launched a new Pickleball Hall of Fame
- Facebook Live Streaming: USAPA Facebook team carried several live matches on Facebook and had a total reach of over 1.5 Million viewers
- Newsletter: USAPA produced 6 newsletters in 2017. You may view archive copies of the newsletter at <https://www.usapa.org/usapa-newsletter/>
- Pickleball Magazine: USAPA partnered with Dollard Publishing and produced 6 Pickleball Magazines during 2017 see <http://usapa.org/pickleball-magazine/>
- Referee Handbook: The USAPA Referee Handbook was updated in 2017 by the Certified Referee Evaluation Committee
- Paddles: USAPA tested and approved 107 paddles in 2017
- National Senior Games: USAPA provided administrative support for the 2017 National Senior Games which set a new player registration record of over 900 players – Visit <http://nsga.com/>

