

**Sun Lakes Pickleball Club IronOaks**  
**Member Skill Level Rating Policy**  
**(Effective: 04.15.24)**

To play ORGANIZED play (prime time) you must be a current Pickleball Amenity member (“Member”) through the IronOaks Fitness and Racquet Facility and you must have an approved permanent, temporary, or conditional Sun Lakes Pickleball Club IronOaks (“SLPCIO”) skill level rating. All Members who wish to advance to a higher permanent skill level rating must attend an SLPCIO rating clinic (“Rating Clinic”) to test for that skill level.

If you currently have, or subsequently obtain, a USA Pickleball Tournament Player ([UTPR](#)) rating, an International Pickleball Teaching Professional Association ([IPTPA](#)) rating, a PickleballTournaments.com World Pickleball Rating ([WPR](#)); or a Dynamic Universal Pickleball Rating ([DUPR](#)) reliable rating not provisional, then you may receive a temporary SLPCIO rating at that skill level until you attend the next available Rating Clinic scheduled for you by the SLPCIO rating committee (“Rating Committee”) to test for that skill level.

Rating Clinics scheduled and conducted by the Rating Committee are offered to all Members.

**New Member:** (Defined as any Member who has not been a past Member or a past Member who has been inactive as a Member for more than 18 months.)

**1. New Member with no prior rating from a Club/UTPR/IPTPA/WPR/DUPR:**

- a. If new to Pickleball, the new Member must attend a beginner lesson (Introduction to Pickleball) from the Pickleball Pro or a designated instructor to learn the basics of Pickleball, proper shoes to wear, signing up for prime time play, score keeping, safety on the court, etc.
- b. New Members receive a 2.0 skill level rating after the lesson.
- c. New Members who desire a skill level rating above 2.0 will only be given a higher temporary rating after being approved by the Pickleball Pro or a designated instructor. (e.g., 2.5T).
- d. A new Member given a higher temporary rating shall only be assessed one time and must retain that temporary rating until the next available Rating Clinic scheduled for them by the Rating Committee. If the new Member is available and physically able to test but does not attend the Rating Clinic, they will revert to the next lower rating.

**2. New Member with a prior rating from a Club/UTPR/IPTPA/WPR/DUPR:**

- a. If a new Member has a UTPR, IPTPA, WPR, or a DUPR reliable rating, then that same rating may be assigned as a temporary rating until they can attend the next available Rating Clinic scheduled for them by the Rating Committee to test for that skill level.
- b. If a new Member provides evidence of a prior Club rating, they may receive a temporary rating at that same level until they can attend the next available Rating Clinic scheduled for them by the Rating Committee to test for that skill level.

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- c. A new Member shall only be assessed one time and must retain that temporary rating until the next available Rating Clinic scheduled for them by the Rating Committee to test for that skill level. If the new Member is available and physically able to test but does not attend the Rating Clinic, they will revert to the next lower rating.

**Rating Clinic Testing:**

1. Rating Clinics are provided for Members who want to advance to the next skill level and temporary rated Members who want to obtain a permanent rating at their current skill level.
2. Testing requirements are explained in the Skill Level Rating Guides found on the SLPCIO Website by clicking on the “**Player Development**” menu located in the header navigation bar and then clicking on one of the following rating guides:
  - a. 2.5 Rating Guide
  - b. 3.0 Rating Guide
  - c. 3.5 Rating Guide
  - d. 4.0 Rating Guide
3. The Rating Committee will send out Rating Clinic announcements for regularly scheduled Rating Clinics to all Members.
4. Members who wish to test for a higher skill level rating must submit a request to the Rating Committee to attend a Rating Clinic by completing the rating request form found on the SLPCIO website by clicking on the “**Member Forms**” drop down menu located in the header navigation bar and then clicking on “**Member Rating Request Form.**”
5. The Rating Committee will confirm space availability and invite Members who submitted the Member Rating Request form to attend the next available Rating Clinic as scheduled by the Rating Committee.

**2-Part Objective Testing Protocol:**

The rating program consists of both a Personal Skills Test and a Doubles Game Play Test. Members must pass both tests in order to advance to the next rating level.

**1. Personal Skills Test**

- a. Conducted by an SLPCIO approved ball feeder and recorder.
- b. SLPCIO approved skill level rating sheets will be used.

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- c. Candidates must score a minimum number of points to pass and must meet the evaluation criteria for each shot as defined on the rating sheet to score a point.
- d. Candidates must pass this test before moving on to the Doubles Game Play Test.
- e. Candidates are only required to pass the Personal Skills Test once.

**2. Doubles Game Play Test**

- a. Conducted by an SLPCIO approved recorder.
- b. Doubles Play - 3 Games to 11 points (win by 1 point).
- c. 2 Candidates and 2 Control Players.
- d. Control Players are defined as: members from the skill level being testing for who are solid players at that level with all the skills necessary to fairly represent their skill level.
- e. Control Players will be chosen from a pool of players as determined monthly (or as needed) by the Rating Committee.
- f. Each Candidate plays 1 game with each Control Player as a partner and then 1 game with the other Candidate as a partner.
- g. Each Candidate must score a minimum number of points in 3 games played to pass.

**Final Rating**

The Candidates will advance to the skill level rating they are testing for upon the successful achievement of passing scores in both the Personal Skills and Doubles Game Play testing.

**Temporary Rating: (e.g., 2.5T)**

Candidates who are given a temporary rating may play at that skill level until they can attend the next available SLPCIO Rating Clinic scheduled for them by the Rating Committee at a date and time when the Candidate is available and physically able to test.

**Conditional Rating: (e.g., 3.0C)**

1. Candidates who pass the Personal Skills test will be given a conditional rating (one time) at the higher skill level for 30 days. During that time, the Candidate will be allowed to play at that higher skill level in order to prepare for the Doubles Game Play test.
2. After the 30-day conditional period, the Rating Committee will schedule the Doubles Game Play test for a date and time when the Candidate is available and physically able to test and the Candidate must pass this test in order to be given a permanent rating at the next level.

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3. Failure to pass the Doubles Game Play test or if the Candidate is available and physically able to test but does not attend the rating clinic, will result in the Candidate reverting to their original rating until they can pass a subsequent Doubles Game Play test at the higher skill level.

**Retesting:**

1. If a Candidate passes the Personal Skills Test but fails the Doubles Game Play Test, the Candidate would only be required to test again for the Doubles Game Play Test.
2. If a Candidate is a temporary rated Member:
  - a. Candidates will be given a 30-day period to play at the assessed level before the Rating Committee will schedule a Personal Skills test for a date and time when the Candidate is available and physically able to test.
  - b. Candidates will only be able to test at their temporary rated skill level for both Personal Skills and Doubles Game Play testing.
  - c. Failure to pass the Personal Skills test will result in the Candidate reverting to the next lower rating skill level until they can pass a subsequent Personal Skills test.
  - d. Failure to pass the Doubles Game Play test or if the Candidate is available and physically able to test but does not attend the rating clinic, will result in the Candidate reverting to the next lower rating until they can pass a subsequent Doubles Game Play test at the higher skill level.
3. Waiting period before retesting for all Candidates who fail either the Personal Skills or Doubles Game Play Test is 30 days.

**Policy Exceptions and Procedural Modifications:**

1. The Rating Committee reserves the right to recommend reasonable exceptions to the policies contained herein for circumstances not contemplated by these policies.
2. Exceptions to the policy require the SLPCIO Board of Directors' and Director of Fitness and Wellness approval.
3. Modifications to procedures to implement the above policies will be made at the discretion of the Rating Committee.