

## Tustin Pickleball Court Rotation & Skill-Levels

A message from our Board President, Phil Dunmeyer:

A few questions have arisen regarding our Court Skill-Levels and Court Rotations depending on the number of people waiting. There are a number of variables that impact court usage and court rotation which make it impossible to cover every contingency and provide members with a complete listing of the guidelines in a written or posted manner. Therefore, the below organizational guidelines should be understood and followed by all members of Tustin Pickleball.

### **SKILL-LEVELS:**

Your SKILL-LEVEL is the major criteria for deciding which of the ten courts you may play on. 70-75% of pickleball players are at levels 3.0-3.5.

Court assignments are as follows:

- 3.0 Skill-Level players may play on Courts 1,2,3.
- 3.5 Skill-Level players may play on Courts 1,2,3,5,6.
- 4.0 Skill-Level players may play on Courts 4,5,6,7,8.
- 4.5 Skill-Level players may play on Courts 4,7,8,9,10.
- 5.0 Skill-Level players may play on Courts 9,10.

If you have an official USAPA skill-level rating, then that will qualify you to play on the courts at that skill-level listed above.

If you do not have or do not know your skill-level rating, then assume you are a 3.5 (or lower). You can ask me (Phil Dunmeyer) when you check in which courts you can play on and I'll let you

know. If I'm not sure, I'll make a point to watch you play on a LOWER COURT and decide if you should move up.

NOTE: If you do not have consistent drop shot accuracy from the baseline into your opponents' Non-Volley Zone (NVZ) and can not sustain a dink rally with your opponents, you are not a 4.0 or higher player, no matter how hard you hit the ball.

ALSO NOTE: You DO NOT GET BETTER by playing against players who are one full skill-level above you. You get better by practicing and drilling on the shots that you need to master to move up to the higher skill-levels.

To learn more about Player Skill Rating Definitions, go to <https://usapickleball.org/tournaments/tournament-player-ratings/player-skill-rating-definitions/>.

## **COURT ROTATION GUIDELINES:**

These are based on the number of people waiting on all of the specific Skill-Level Courts and not just on the number of people waiting on your court.

- **2 On 2 Off**: If there are only one or two waiting on Courts 1,2,3, winners can stay on and win up to three games in a row. After their third win in a row, the winners must get off the court to allow the others in line to play. The same goes for Courts 5,6; Courts 4,7,8; and Courts 9,10.
- **4 On 4 Off**: If there are four waiting on Court 5 and no one waiting on Court 6 then it is still 2 on and 2 off since two of the four waiting on Court 5 should move to Court 6. Once there are three or more waiting on all of the specific skill-level courts, then it becomes 3 or 4 on and 3 or 4 off.

If there is an excessive number of players at one particular skill-level and their courts are seriously impacted for waiting time, then we will assess the other courts and see if we need to reassign the court skill-level for that day and move players around.

**IMPORTANT:** The decision to reassign the court skill-levels for that day and move players around will be made by the Board of Directors' members present that day. Failure to follow the directions of the Board members present regarding moving to Skill-Level Courts more appropriate for the player's Skill-Level, or not following the reassigned Skill-Levels for the courts for that day can result in the loss of the player's membership in Tustin Pickleball. The major goals of our Board of Directors (in addition to SAFETY) is to make playing Pickleball fair and equitable for everyone, and to provide a smooth running and organized program.

**NOTE:** Players who play at the skill-level courts lower than their actual skill-level do not create nearly as much friction as those who play at the higher skill-levels where they do not belong. The higher skill-level players can obviously keep up with the lower skill-level players, but the reverse is not true.

**FINALLY –** Your Tustin Pickleball Board of Directors as well as most of our members are very appreciative of the vast majority of our members who follow our guidelines and help make Tustin Pickleball such a friendly and positive experience.