

## **The Lakewood Eesti Mängud Pickle Ball tournament will be run with Two divisions:**

- Teams will pre-register based on 3.5 rating or higher (see below) with 1 Male and 1 Female player in the Intermediate division. Each player will be assigned to a group, Intermediate
- Teams will pre-register in the Novice division with 2 players Male-Male, Male-Female, Female-Female allowed. Each player will be assigned to group 1 or group 2, Novice
- **Registration for both divisions will be completed by 2-August** via email sent to [carlms223@gmail.com](mailto:carlms223@gmail.com). The tournament will be limited to the first 5 teams registered in each division. If you are registering as an individual, indicate this in your email and we will do our best to align you with a partner.
- We are limiting to 5 teams and single game format to allow pickle ball participants to participate in other events – tennis, volleyball, etc. If there is significant interest and participation this year, we can expand format for subsequent years.
- We will have extra paddles for use and will supply balls and nets.

### Tournament format – King/Queen of the Hill

- Each player will play 1 game with each of the players from the other group in their respective division. Intermediate, each male will play 1 game with each of the females and each female will play 1 game with each of the males. Novice, each group 1 player will play with each of the group 2 players and each group 2 player will play with each of the group 1 players.
- The 1 game will be played to 11 points and the winning margin must be 2 points.
- Each winning player will be awarded 11 points and each losing player will be awarded their final score in points. (if a game goes to overtime, beyond 11 points ... the winning players will receive 11 points and the losing players will be awarded 9 points regardless of final score.)
- After all matches have been played, the points from all games will be tallied for each player.
- The players will be ranked from 1 to 4 by highest to lowest points (if there is a tie, head to head match winner takes the higher position).
- If there are fifth place finishers, they are done after the round robin format and they will not participate in the playoffs. The new teams will be formed as follows
  - Group 1 – first, Group 2 – fourth
  - Group 1 – third, Group 2 – second
  - Group 1 – second, Group 2 – third

- Group 1 – fourth, Group 2 - first
- Playoffs will start with the light blue teams meeting and the green teams meeting. The winners will then meet in the finals. All matches are 1 game to 11 and win by 2.

### **Rating Definitions**

These are the rating definitions used for the 2-digit rating system and by tournament directors to rate players who have never played in a tournament before. If you are not sure (or are not familiar with rating system), you should register for novice division.

#### **Rating 1.0**

New player with understanding of the game and rules.

#### **Rating 1.5**

Can hit the ball back and forth a bit

Learning to serve

Fails to hit easy balls frequently

Beginning to learn the basic rules such as scoring, lines, sideouts, etc.

#### **Rating 2.0**

Sustains short rallies

Makes basic strokes such as forehand, backhand, volley, and can serve the ball

Understands court positioning and doubles rules

#### **Rating 2.5**

Can sustain longer rallies but not a fast pace

Makes most easy shots including backhands, but still needs some work

Able to approach the non-volley zone and hit volleys.

Aware of dinks

Good understanding of the rules

Struggles to cover the entire court

#### **Rating 3.0**

Has a consistent serve and returns medium-paced balls reliably.

Able to make all basic strokes. Lacks control when trying to place the ball.

Attempts lobs and dinks with limited success.

### **Rating 3.5**

Consistent control and placement of medium-paced shots. Able to return fast-paced shots with slightly less success.

Improved control and placement of the ball.

Needs more shot variety.

Can play aggressively at the non-volley zone.

Anticipates opponent's shots.

Learning the strategy of doubles play.

### **Rating 4.0**

Consistent both forehand and backhand strokes.

Can use spin with some success.

Can occasionally force errors when serving.

May lose rallies due to impatience.

Uses the dink and drop shot successfully.

Demonstrates 3rd shot strategies.

Aggressive net play in doubles.

Full understanding of the rules.

### **Rating 4.5**

Beginning to master placement and spin.

Beginning to master 3rd shot choices.

Good footwork and positioning.

Adjusts game style to account for opponent's strengths/weaknesses and court position.

Good shot selection. Does not force shots.

Serves consistently and can vary speed and spin.

Good court positioning. Anticipates opponent's shot.

### **Rating 5.0**

Mastered all shot types.

Excellent shot anticipation.

Accurate shot placement.

Forces errors. Limits their own unforced errors.

Mastered dinks and dropshots.

Mastered 3rd shot strategy.

Mastered different strategies and can vary play style.

Raw athletic ability is often what separates 5.0 players from the rest.