



CAPAREAPB.COM

April 2024

DEDICATED TO PROMOTING THE SPORT OF PICKLEBALL

In this issue

From the President
By Kevin McPherson

Our outdoor Pickleball season starts on May 1st and CAPA has a record amount of programming planned to make it the best Pickleball summer in Dane County yet. In addition to your regular play groups, I hope you get a chance to play on some of the area's new courts, join a CAPA league or develop your skills at a player development event. The certified area Pickleball instructors are also available to help take your game to the next level.

Tournaments are already on the schedule and more will be added soon. Our Baird CAPA

Cup members-only tournament will be coming in August. The location and dates will be announced very soon in a member email. We expect a record number of players and a record amount of fun at this year's tournament.

And, another reminder that this all happens due to our fantastic volunteers. Many of you have recently offered your help and there's always room for more. If you can lend a hand, [contact us](#) through the website or send me an [email](#).

See you on the courts,
Kevin

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CAPA Info

BE SURE TO CHECK OUT:

****[Upcoming Events](#)****

CAPA Board Meetings

CAPA Board Meetings are open to the public. Meetings will typically be held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. Time and location noted in the Agenda on the [website](#).

Pickleball Central Discount

Don't forget to take advantage of the Pickleball Central discount: 5% to you and 5% credited to CAPA.

Discount code is: CRMadison

CAPA Membership

Don't delay - Join today! Click [here](#) for online membership renewal or new membership. Please share with others.

CAPA Newsletters

Look for the [CAPA newsletters](#) four times a year. If there is anything you would like to see included, please let us know by emailing pickleball@capareapb.com

Ratings in Your Profile

Are you looking forward to playing in CAPA sponsored and cosponsored Pickleball events this summer? If so, invitations are emailed to members based on the skill level you have listed in your CAPA profile. Therefore it is important for you to make sure your skill level is accurate. How to edit your profile:

Log in to the CAPA website.
Click on your name (upper right)
Click "Edit Profile" (upper left)
Scroll down to "Skill Level"

Also, if you have forgotten your password, click on the Help Link (top left of home page) and you will find instructions on how to reset your password.

We hope to see you on the courts at CAPA events this summer!

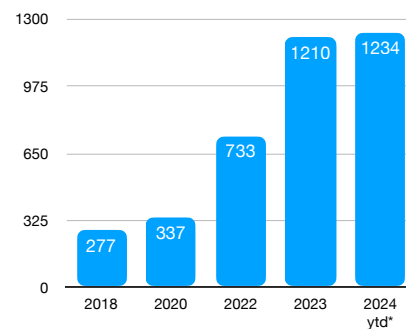
PickleBlog

Did you know CAPA has a blog? Check out (and bookmark) the [PickleBlog on the CAPA website](#). Abigail Darwin is authoring articles offering tips, updates, and general Pickleball news. Take a look!



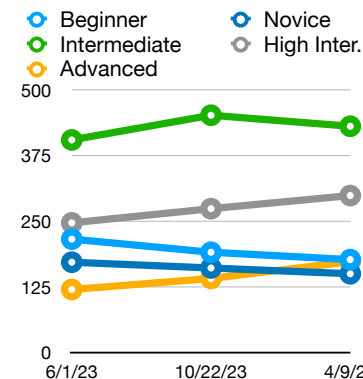
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MEMBERS



YEAR	MEMBERS	%CHANGE
2018	277	45%
2020	337	-20%
2022	733	37%
2023	1210	65%
2024 YTD*	1234	2%

SKILL LEVEL TRENDS



SKILL LEVEL	6/1/23	10/22/23	4/9/24
BEGINNER	216	191	177
NOVICE	172	161	150
INTERMEDIATE	405	452	431
HIGH INTER.	247	274	299
ADVANCED	120	141	173

What I Like Best about Pickleball by Richard S. Russell

In a word, diversity!

You've probably heard that Pickleball is a good sport for old people. And that's certainly true as far as it goes, because it provides good exercise without a lot of running (courts are only 1/3 the size of tennis courts) and rewards strategy, patience, and precision at least as much as strength and speed. But the other half of the story is that it's just a blast for younger people, too, which is why it's the nation's fastest-growing sport, with more and more young people – down to the grade-school level – getting into it.

The upshot is that there's a wide diversity of ages represented on the Pickleball court...and evenly matched, too. Old people can beat younger ones; dinkers can flummox bangers. But it doesn't stop with age; Pickleball is wonderful for the variety of people you meet. Any given game can feature people of both sexes; any mix of races, ethnicities, and nationalities; and a wide variety of body types. Also, there are likely various religions, political affiliations, or sexual orientations. But we'd never know because nobody cares...we're all just out there to have fun! That's what makes it the friendliest sport on Earth.

It's like what Bill Maher said about the Olympics. He admitted right away that he's not much of a sports fan, but he enjoys the opening ceremonies, when all the participating athletes parade into the stadium. He noted that everyone on Team China looks Chinese. The athletes from Japan all look Japanese. All the Kenyans, Nigerians, and Congolese look African. All the Mexicans and Venezuelans look Hispanic. All the Germans, Danes, Swedes, and Norwegians look Nordic. And then the Americans come in, and they look like the world.

He could have been talking about Pickleball.

Total Eclipse of the...FUN!



Becoming a Pickleball Referee

Steve Surprenant, USAPA Credentialed Official

I started my journey about 12 months ago after playing Pickleball for about 18 months. I officiate other sports and thought that adding Pickleball officiating would add to my enjoyment of the sport. Here are the steps that I have taken and will take to complete my journey:

1. You must be a USAPA member, and at least 16 years old.
2. Complete a referee training class conducted by a USA Pickleball registered referee trainer. This curriculum should include line judge training. The course can be Online video training and/or classroom PowerPoint training. (Utilize the training materials found on the [USAPA website](#))
3. Contact your regional Referee Training Coordinator (RTC) to find a trainer. (Wisconsin does not have a resident trainer).
4. Attend and watch Pickleball games from a referee perspective (At the net).
5. Purchase or download the tools needed to officiate (Clipboard, clips, stopwatch, tape measure, score sheets)
6. Practice keeping score in rec-play games.
7. Volunteer to officiate local rec-play games, with all levels of skill players.
8. Search out sanctioned tournaments and contact the head referee and referee coordinator to schedule shadow opportunities and possible refereeing opportunities.
9. Practice, practice, practice.
10. Attend a sanctioned tournament to be assessed for Level 1 credentialing (usually within 3-6 months after starting the process).
11. After receiving Level 1 credentials, attend additional tournaments to build experience/confidence in officiating.
12. Work with RTC to improve skills.
13. After over 100 matches, apply to be assessed for Level 2 credentialing. (6-9 months after Level 1).
14. After receiving Level 2 credentials, ask for mentor/trainer to work on advanced skills.
15. Complete the Advanced Training Skills (ATS) with mentor and apply for assessment to become Certified Referee (6-12 months after Level 2).



Even though it may seem like it takes a long period of time to complete all the steps, this is actually a shorter time frame than it has taken in other sports. The 3 other sports that I have credentials for have taken between 3-5 years to attain the highest level of certification. The Pickleball refereeing process is well documented and could be achieved within two years. If you have questions about the process, please reach out to me at: Steve Surprenant, slsurp1@gmail.com.

CAPA Website Updates

If you have not been visiting the website lately we would like to highlight some areas you may want to check out.

We have added a [PickleBlog](#) on the home page (right column). CAPA member Abigail Darwin has been posting regular updates regarding Pickleball news in our area. Two examples are: *Summer Youth Pickleball in Sun Prairie!* and *Current Netted Status of Outdoor Pickleball Courts in the Madison Area*. Check out these and other articles for news and helpful tips.

Also, one benefit of CAPA membership is access to Member Only sections of the website. Access to Member Directory, Lesson plans, Grant information and other areas only show up when you are logged into the site. If you are not logged in you will only see what non-members see on our website.

Finally, check out *Where to Play - Outdoor Courts*. This is a listing of all the outdoor courts in the CAPA service area. It shows which are dedicated Pickleball courts and actual court schedules for courts that have shared them with CAPA.

Check out all the main menu links as well as the Quick Links on the bottom of the home page - you will find a treasure trove of helpful sources.

Etiquette Corner

By Kevin Devine

To Rule or Not To Rule?



It never fails to amaze me how, for such a relatively simple game, so many Pickleball players just don't know some of the basic rules. Beginners I can understand; the whole idea of the no volley zone is weird and takes some getting used to. What bothers me are the seasoned players who either don't know, or flout, the rules.

Some rules are inviolate, such as the NVZ and the two bounce rule. But others seem more flexible, which is probably good because they are frequently ignored. I see the volley-serve rules frequently ignored. Beginners and pros alike, it seems, serve side-arm, or with the paddle higher than their wrist. (It also doesn't help that in a non-officiated game, the remedy for these rule violations is... nothing [4.A.9.a])

This raises the question of whether or not you should call out an opponent if they clearly violate a rule. I've written before about being careful to avoid alienating others over what is supposed to be a recreational pursuit. My own guideline in these matters is "no harm, no foul." If your opponent steps just over the line during a serve, is it worth calling a fault? Or if someone accidentally touches the net while rushing in to get a dink?

On the other hand, some faults are almost automatically impactful on the game and must be called. In addition to NVZ and the two-bounce rules mentioned earlier, I think we could add instances where the ball touches a player, or errors with servers and receivers being in their correct positions. I'm sure you can think of more.

If you do feel compelled to point out an ongoing issue with someone's play, you might want to wait until the end of the game and then frame the issue as one of suggesting that you are pretty sure they didn't mean to intentionally break a rule.

And of course these suggestions only apply in recreational games. If you are playing in a tournament or league, you are entitled to call any infraction to your advantage. Just remember...your opponent is watching you, too.

Pickleball Rules Update

By Steve Surprenant, USAPA Credentialed Official

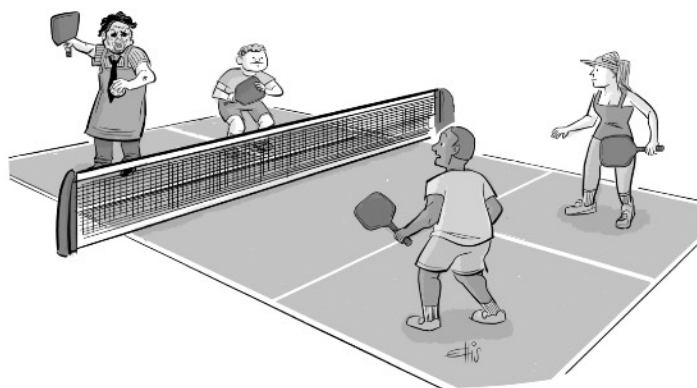
I often get asked what faults can be called when you are playing non-officiated or recreation play.

Here are the ones that can be called when you are playing:

- Receivers may call a service foot fault on the server.
- Players may call a non-volley zone (NVZ or kitchen) foot fault on their opponents.

In both of these cases, the offending player could dispute the call which would result in a re-serve or re-play.

Other faults during play can be identified after the rally has ended, but unless the offending player agrees, there is no recourse other than a replay. This can lead to multiple re-plays if the offending player does not acknowledge their fault. This is especially true on serves, when a player may serve illegally (see October newsletter). There are a number of conditions on the serve where there is no recourse for the receiver, but in the spirit of good sportsmanship, hopefully we all try to follow the rules, and if we don't know the rules, should seek out someone with knowledge of the rules (experienced players or referees).



“Watch out for his chainsaw serve.”

Here are the rules associated with non-officiated play.

Rule 4.A.6. In matches without a referee, the server's release of the ball must be visible to the receiver. There is no fault if the release is not visible to the referee or receiver.

Rule 4.A.9. In non-officiated matches, if the receiver determines that manipulation of spin has been imparted prior to the serve, or the release of the ball is not visible, the receiver may call for a replay before the return of serve. In non-officiated matches, the receiver has no authority to call for replays or faults for service motion violations.

Rule 13.D.1.c. Players may call non-volley zone and service foot faults on the opponent's end of the court. If there is any disagreement among players about the called foot fault, a replay shall occur.

Rule 13.D.1.d. For non-officiated matches, if a player believes an opponent has committed any type of fault other than a service or non-volley zone foot fault as noted in Section 7, Fault Rules, they may mention the specific fault to the opponent(s) but they have no authority to enforce the fault. The final decision on fault resolution belongs to the player that allegedly committed the fault.

Next newsletter: Proper etiquette for making line calls.

2024 CAPA Events

Please check out the [Events listing on the CAPA website](#) for more information on the following events:

- Fun Prairie Open: June 7-9 in Sun Prairie
- 2024 ACE Mentor Wisconsin: Madison Affiliate- Pickleball Tournament Fundraiser June 15 in McFarland
- NEW!: Hitters Pickleball Championship: a Fundraiser for JDRF (Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation), June 22-23. [More information here.](#)
- 4th Annual Norse Open: June 21-23 in Stoughton
- MadTown Pickleball Open: July 11-14 in Sun Prairie
- 2024 Baird CAPA Cup: dates and location TBD

Watch your email for CAPA-sponsored and co-sponsored events such as skills and drills, leagues, clinics, organized play, and socials coming this spring and summer. Volunteer groups are in the planning stages for these events!

Summer Youth Pickleball Organized Play Wyndham Hills, Sun Prairie

The Sun Prairie Park, Recreation and Forestry Department will offer two youth Pickleball organized play programs this summer. Organizers for the youth program are CAPA members Rich Holsinger, Karen Jerg and Michael Wedge.

The program will consist of two age groups:

- Grades 6 - 8 (2024-25 school year) will meet Tuesday evenings from 6-7:30 p.m. beginning June 11 and ending July 30.
- Grades 9 - 12 (2024-25 school year) will meet Wednesday evenings from 6 - 7:30 p.m. beginning June 12 and ending July 31.

This program is free and is for residents and non-residents. The goal of this program is to promote skill development, sportsmanship, physical activity, teamwork, friendly competition, making new friends and having fun. There will be a weekly signup event on playtime scheduler. Those interested in participating can register [here](#) (type in Pickleball in the search field).



CAPA Volunteer Opportunities

Did you know that CAPA is a 100% volunteer run organization? With the continuing growth in our membership and the goal of promoting the sport of Pickleball in the greater Dane County area we will be regularly looking for volunteers. Starting this year, we are actively recruiting volunteers. There are seven areas where volunteers are currently needed. [Visit this CAPA webpage](#) for a description of these volunteer opportunities listed below:

- CAPA Cup Tournament
- Organized Play
- Assisting with Skills and Drills Events
- Social Events - "Fun"
- Communications
- Support Area Representatives
- Wherever I am Needed

We have had 50 CAPA members respond to our call for help. It's not too late to get signed up for this year-- [Contact Us on the CAPA website](#) to send us an email.

Volunteers Needed will be a regular part of the newsletter in the future.

Looking forward to a fun-filled outdoor Pickleball season in 2024! See you on the courts!

Volunteers Needed

Finance Committee Member

We are looking for an interested member to join the Finance Committee. Volunteers should have formal accounting or finance training and/or relevant work experience. The main responsibilities of the Finance Committee are to prepare the annual budget for review with the CAPA Board, administer the grant program and review requests for CAPA sponsorship of events and recommend appropriate action to the Board. Also, the Board, at its discretion, may authorize qualified persons to perform a review of CAPA's financial records and this committee member would participate in that effort.

Graphic Designer

We are looking for a member with a graphic design or artistic background. This person would assist in designing flyers for events and look at updating the current CAPA Logo.

Skilled Writers

Are you a skilled writer? And/or do you have an idea for a Pickleball article that our CAPA members would find useful and/or amusing? The newsletter editor is looking for your help four times a year.

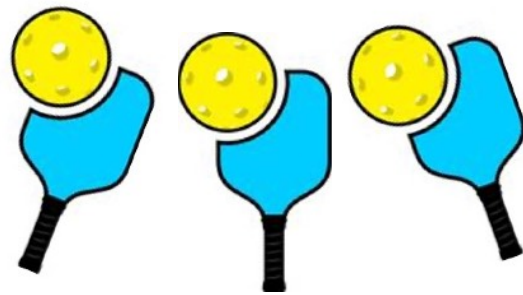
Please email Jill Jorstad at jill.jorstad@gmail.com if you are interested in any of the above volunteer opportunities.

Events Committee

This is your chance to mingle with fellow players, engage in lively round robins, and, most importantly, have a blast while contributing to the excitement of our events. We're on the lookout for enthusiastic volunteers who are eager to bring fresh ideas and energy to our gatherings. We have a great foundation of volunteers but would like a few more. We already have a round robin planned for May and we hope to do a couple a month around Madison. Let's make memories and create unforgettable experiences together! Join the Events Committee today and let the fun begin! Please contact Shelley Reynolds at MadCityShelley@gmail.com.

Paddles Needed!

It is spring cleaning time! Time to clean out your Pickleball bag/locker! Is there a paddle that you are not using? CAPA is looking for gently used paddles. The paddles will be used for beginner lessons, court grand openings and learn-to-play sessions. If you have a paddle to donate, please [email Joanne Crapisi](mailto:Joanne.Crapisi). Thank you!!



CAPA Player Profiles

Steve & Julie Surprenant

We both grew up in Minnesota and met while attending college at Southwest Minnesota State University. Steve has a degree in Electronic Engineering and Health, and Julie has a degree in Physical Education with a minor in Art. After getting a job at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, we were married and lived in Rochester for 15 years. During that time, we were both very active in recreational volleyball and racquetball. Steve volunteered as an athletic trainer for Rochester John Marshall HS, and Julie was a volleyball coach at the same school. We have one daughter who started competitive swimming at an early age, which led Steve to become a swim official. While working for General Electric Medical Systems, we moved to the Madison area, where Steve managed a group of field service engineers. Steve continues to officiate swimming, cross country and track and field. He recently participated in his 11th NCAA swimming championship. Julie had a fulfilling career with various creative industries and local florists. She is an artist and enjoys many types of creativity, especially quilting. Upon retiring, she started Paint My Face family entertainment, and after retiring, Steve joined her as a balloon twister. We continue to be very busy creating colorful smiles with our “hobby” throughout the year.



In 2021, our neighbor introduced Steve to Pickleball at Wyndham Hills and Julie started practicing with him the following year. When the weather got colder, we joined Prairie Athletic Club to play indoors. We have been improving our skill level with drills, practice, lessons, and games with the Social Intermediate Group (SIG). We are “addicted” ... so much that we now have a portable net and lines to use when traveling.

In March of 2023, Steve made the decision to become a Pickleball official (see article on Becoming a Pickleball Official in this newsletter). Being a Pickleball official has allowed him to be involved with every level of play, from beginner to pro. He enjoys educating others on the rules, whether at a tournament or playing recreationally. It’s very exciting to be courtside with USAPA and PPA pro players.

Pictures!



Richard Russell with some new license plates!



Suzanne and Frank Poggio playing Pickleball on a cruise



Liz Schlagenhaft and Wendy Mattie took 2nd place in the Marinette Frozen Thaw Tournament



Chris Nuon and James Wallis (center) took First Place at a tournament at Lake Geneva Tennis



Dave Weinbach (right) wins Gold at US Open in Mens Senior Division!

Pictures!



Pickleball on Easter Sunday!



Winter time Pickle Pro morning group



Farewell gathering for Trent and Lily



Pickles and Beer at Princeton Club East

Pictures!



Mary McCutcheon, pictured in the middle of the group (sunglasses and black jacket) in Beaver Dam



Outdoor play...in February!



Dave Weinbach (right) with Pro Golfer Curtis Strange



Tom Schwarz (right), Bronze Medal: Mixed 4.0/4.5, 50+ Fun Festival, East Naples



Dave Weinbach (left) at the US Open in Naples

Pictures!



PickleSelfie



3.0-3.5 Indoor League



Sun Prairie social intermediate group at Prairie Athletic Club



3.5+ organized play participants at Wyndham Hills, Sun Prairie

Have pictures you want to share? Send them our way: pickleball@capareapb.com

DINK WISCONSIBLY!