



Volume 2, Issue 14  
Dec, 2020

**DECEMBER, 2020**



### **Save the Date — Peace River Picklers Annual Meeting**

Sunday, January 10th, 2021 1:00 pm

Outdoors at the Laishley Park Pavilion — bring a chair

150 Laishley Park Rd Punta Gorda, FL 33950

### **A continuing friendly reminder**

**With COVID-19 still present, and a few reported cases within our very own local pickleball community, please remember to practice social distancing and proper hand sanitizing. If you have been exposed to someone who has tested positive for the virus, please do not play at the courts for 14 days. As always, please be considerate of your fellow players.**

The Pickle Vine team welcomes any comments, submissions or suggestions

Chief Editor: Jack Laflamme - [ccb50@comcast.net](mailto:ccb50@comcast.net) Editor: Katie Gove - [keg.5671@gmail.com](mailto:keg.5671@gmail.com)

Tournament reporter : Maureen Blanton - [mblanton116@gmail.com](mailto:mblanton116@gmail.com)

## A Message from PRP President Deb Sarkisian

Dear Picklers,

Many of you have asked "when are leagues and classes starting again"? The board is pleased to announce that January 11th will be the start date of our first Winter session. This session will last six weeks and be followed immediately by our second Winter session starting in March. An email blast will be sent to you toward the end of November announcing the opening of our website for sign up.

Many of you have also asked why there is such a big gap from one session to another. The reason is one that we have been communicating continually. We struggle to find volunteers to lead our leagues and teach our classes. Not only that, but preparation of the website for our sign ups is a huge undertaking. So as long as we can find members to volunteer to lead those events that you love to participate in, we will offer them. And as long as we have a webmaster to create all of our event sign ups, we will offer them. Please consider volunteering by filling out the Volunteer Registration on the PRP website. Your Club needs YOU!!!

Thank you,

Deb Sarkisian PRP President



**Peace River Picklers website**

[www.peacriverpicklers.com](http://www.peacriverpicklers.com)

## **Skills & Drills, Skill Assessment Updates**

This past fall, the PRP board rolled out a newly designed program for **Skills & Drills**. This program included a formal “Teach the Teacher” training that provided our teachers with standardized curriculums developed and taught by our 5.0 USAPA rated instructor, Sarah Saari. USAPA rated 5.0 instructor Bob White joined Sarah in this training.

We rolled this program out as a “pilot program”, with a reduced rate, so that we could run through the process and obtain conclusive feedback from our teachers and players. Overwhelmingly the feedback was extremely positive!! We took into consideration all information received and made a few modifications to the program. We are extremely pleased with the caliber and quality of this program and the high level of training we are offering to our members. For the winter season, this program will be offered again for six weeks at a cost of \$40. This minimal increase supports the cost and sustainability of the program.

In addition, we offered another “pilot program” for a Club **Skill Assessment**. This assessment is similar to the process IPTPA follows to help players understand their skill level. We held a few sessions and due to unforeseen circumstances, decided to pause this program for the time being. We would like to thank all those who did participate.

The Peace River Picklers Board of Directors



Sarah Saari, USAPA 5.0 rated instructor



# PRP Fall League Champs

By Bruce McPhee, Director of Leagues

I thought we would acknowledge the “winners” of our fall leagues.

We would like to thank all of the players that participated in our pickleball leagues this fall. We do keep statistics on who has scored what and some of the leagues also track wins.

In our Round Robin leagues, which were held on Tuesdays, we had a tie for the 3.0 league, with **Niles Waring** and **Marshall Fernholz in the lead**. In the 3.5 league, **Bill Terhune** ended up with the most points and wins.

We had a couple of ladder leagues. In these leagues players get a rating between 0 and 100 based on points scored, wins, and which court those points and wins came on. **Gary (G) Wilson** had the highest rating in the league held at Burnt Store Marina, and **Bruce McPhee** had the highest rating in the Friday 3.5-4.0 league.

The other leagues held were a Shootout format, with **Beth Ferns** having the highest points per game in the Ladies 3.5, **Heather Washik** in the Ladies Evening 3.0, and **Greg Krauss** in the Saturday 3.0-3.5 league.

A shout out and congratulations go out to the “winners”!

Next session of leagues will start in January. Keep an eye out for registration, which will open soon!

Thanks,

Bruce McPhee  
League Director



# Denzel's Message

Every service that Peace River Picklers provides, from PB101 to league play to skills and drills, is provided by volunteers. Volunteers are the lifeblood of every organization. This article is not being written to shame or guilt anyone into doing more for PRP. It's being written to encourage or even inspire most of you to give something back to your fellow members through our organization. Here's a list of the committees that need more volunteers:

nominating committee

volunteer committee

league committee

teacher lead

skills and drills committee

tournament committee

inventory lead

recognition committee

We also need at least one or two people that are proficient in working within our website and updating its content and functionality.

The truth is, only a handful of members do the work required for the rest of us to enjoy the benefits of everything PRP provides. That can only lead to burn-out, disillusionment, and ultimately stepping away.

PRP is not the Board's organization, it is our organization. Ideally we should have a stable of volunteers at the ready to help out whenever and wherever there is a need. We need succession planning so the future of the organization is never in doubt. We need leaders that can take over an activity, administer that activity, and mentor another member to be the next leader of that activity. We need to prepare for the future so that PRP continues to provide high quality activities and a minimal fee. That sage and ancient philosopher, Denzel Washington, once said: "At the end of the day it's not about what you have or even what you've accomplished... it's about who you've lifted up, who you've made better. It's about what you've given back."

For PRP to thrive, we need you to give back. Our League Director should not have to beg and plead for people to run a league each and every session. Skills and Drills should not have to continually be searching for new teachers. You get the picture. It's not our obligation to serve, it's our privilege to give back. If there is no giving back, there can be no Peace River Picklers programs and services. And if there are no PRP programs and services then what's the point of PRP?

Please email me at [rocknpickleball@gmail.com](mailto:rocknpickleball@gmail.com) to let me know where you will give back. I'd like for my email to be flooded with at least three dozen volunteers and potential leaders to move us forward and lighten the load that so few are carrying now for all of us.

Tom Ward  
PRP Volunteer Coordinator





## PRP in Support of Compass Center

Peace River Picklers is pleased to provide support to the Compass Center by donating two outdoor nets for the use of their kids.

Ricky Deller, a Peace River member and independent pickleball instructor, donates his time to the Compass Center one day a week, teaching kids the game of pickleball. Ricky says “the kids that get involved in this pickleball program have advanced better in the Compass Center Rehabilitation program.”

The nets will be used by the kids at the center every day once they learn the game from Ricky. This has become an important part of their overall program.

Compass Center is a 120-day residential treatment program serving youth aged 13 – 17.

The nets were delivered by Peace River Picklers to the Compass Center on Friday, November 13th.





### **Pickleball The Night Before Christmas**

**T'was the night before Christmas  
And out on the courts  
Were all types of people  
In tennies and shorts  
All of them beaming and shouting with joy  
Happy as children with a new Christmas toy  
Out of their bags, colorful paddles appeared  
To the kitchen they scurried, lined up, and cheered  
Let's dink it and drop it, let's volley and kill  
The balls started bouncing as if without will  
The sound from the paddles and balls as they rose  
Moved all of the players to the tips of their toes  
Cross court and forward, balls started to fly  
When appeared an old player with a wink in his eye  
Dressed in all red from his head to his toe  
A smile on his face and a warm, cheery glow  
0 0 2 he shouted as he served me the ball  
He moved like the wind, barely saw him at all  
Then all of a sudden, it was 11 to 0  
As we lightly touched paddles, he said he must go  
Before I asked where, he disappeared in a haze,  
But I heard his farewell while still in my daze  
"Keep playing and laughing and having your fun!  
Merry Pickleball to all, my work here is done!"**

An excerpt from Jennifer Lucore's pickleball blog. <https://allpickleball.com/jennifersblog/christmas-decorations-with-pickleballs/>

Poem authored by Greg LaVelle.

# Professional Pickleball Registry Workshop

## Port Charlotte



Gigi Fernandez on left with Nicole Hobson

Last month in our article "Getting Certified: A Great Way to Give Back and Learn More About the Game," we reported that Professional Pickleball Registry (PPR) was holding several 8-hour coach certification workshops in Punta Gorda and Port Charlotte on October 20th and in Englewood on October 21st. The sessions were so full that PPR added extra workshops.

With players reporting from all parts of Florida, one surprise student was Gigi Fernandez. Gigi, a former number 1 ranked pro tennis player and International Hall of Fame Women's Tennis player, joined the PPR certification class taught by PPR Coach Nicole Hobson. Gigi won 17 Grand Slam doubles titles during her pro career and also won two Olympic gold medals representing the United States. In 2010 she was named the Puerto Rican Athlete of the Century and in October 2014, espnW voted Gigi Fernandez the 10th most influential Hispanic athlete in history.

I had a chance to talk to Nicole, who stated "It was an honor to have Gigi, one of my tennis icons, at the certification workshop. It was amazing to watch how quickly she picked up the nuances between tennis and pickleball."

Once a tennis player herself, Nicole also moved to pickleball and has competed and won medals since the 2012 USAPA National Tournament. As Nicole explains how Gigi quickly understood the two sports' subtle differences, she has a childhood excitement, stating "I have always looked up to Gigi. I am looking forward to seeing her play and coach pickleball. It was an honor to teach her."

We should keep our eyes out for Gigi on the pickleball courts! Also, check out the Professional Pickleball Registry (PPR) for more information about the Certification process and schedule.

Nicole Hobson is an industry leader promoting the growth of pickleball. She serves as Member Services Director for The Professional Pickleball Registry (PPR); Ambassador for USA Pickleball; USA Pickleball Certified Referee; tournament director; and a lead clinician for PPR.

as reported by Katie Gove, editor





PRP Recent Tournament Winners



[This Photo](#)

# *Halloween Hollow Tournament*

October 31, 2020 – November 1, 2020

## Mens Doubles

- 3.0: 19 to 55+ – SILVER: Bruce Suardini
- 3.0: 60+ – SILVER: Brett Hutlas
- 3.5: 60 to 65+ – SILVER: Tom Ward and Bill Terhune
- 3.5: 70 to 75+ – GOLD: Fred Graham
- 4.5: 19 to 60+ – GOLD: Blake Wilson

## Mixed Doubles

- 3.0: 35 to 50+ - SILVER: Brett Hutlas
- 3.5: 60+ - BRONZE: Renee Jackson
- 3.5: 65+ - SILVER: Mary Stewart and Bill Terhune
- 3.5: 70 to 75+ - BRONZE: Bonnie Stade and Fred Graham
- 4.0: 55+ - SILVER: Karen Harrod
- 4.0: 60 to 65+ - SILVER: Paula Rockwell and Jon Ralph

## Womens Doubles

- 3.0: 35 to 50+ - GOLD: Heather Washik
- 3.0: 55 to 60+ - GOLD: Barbara Mills
- 4.0: 60 to 65+ - SILVER: Kathy Seward



## From the Peace River Picklers Board of Directors

The purpose of the Peace River Picklers (PRP) is to promote the game of pickleball. This implies that sportsmanship, etiquette and generosity will be foremost in all PRP efforts. Pickleball can be competitive or it can be recreational. PRP will respect the wants and goals of all players, endeavoring to provide events, activities, and play to meet all members' needs.

### Peace River Picklers (PRP) Code of Conduct

- \* I will not act in a way that threatens my safety or the safety of others.
- \* I will refrain from verbal outbursts which are profane, threatening or abusive.
- \* I will refrain from acts or language which harasses or belittles a teammate or opponent, or which creates turmoil and/or dissension among players.
- \* I will respect the pickleball courts and property and perform no action which may cause damage.
- \* I will comply with posted court schedules.
- \* I will make fair line calls and respect calls made by others. I will consider the ball to be "in" if uncertain of the line call.
- \* I will behave in a manner consistent with this code and, as such, will be an ambassador for the sport of pickleball.

The Board of Directors appreciates your adherence to this Code of Conduct. Please feel free to contact any one of us with any concerns.

Deb Sarkisian, Jean McGee, Laurie Price, Heather Washik, Doug Gammie, Bruce McPhee and Mary Stewart





# Tuning Up for Pickleball



It's peak season for pickleball with the courts in full swing, but are you ready? Preparing your body for pickleball *AHEAD* of the season is critical to avoid acute injuries (falls, sprains, strains, fractures) and overuse injuries (shoulder strain, knee tendonitis, elbow pain, plantar fasciitis). Starting right up with matches and tournaments without proper conditioning puts you at risk for these injuries. Some pre-planning may help reduce the risk of injury:

1) Take lessons from a pickleball pro: Even if you are an upper level player, having a pro review your footwork techniques, playing posture and strategies is a good idea. Pulling a calf or hamstring because you stretched too far for that deep shot may be prevented by staying on your toes, keeping your feet moving, and using short quick steps to reach the ball, with your weight on the balls of your feet. Doubles strategizing can minimize partners slamming into each other or scrambling to reach that wide shot that your partner might have anticipated. Keeping your feet under you and up on your toes may also prevent torque injuries to the knee or ankle by helping you turn your entire body to reach that shot that goes far left or right, instead of twisting your knees or back or ankle with a wild lunge.

2) Stretch every day, a couple times a day, *whether you are playing that day or not*. Stretch before *AND* after playing. Yoga classes are a great compliment to pickleball and help you keep muscles flexible to avoid a dreaded achilles tendon tear or hamstring strain. Plyometric exercises taught by a certified trainer or physical therapist can also help improve your flexibility and balance. Take a class!

3) Light strengthening exercises for arms, legs and especially core exercises for your abs and back can minimize injuries during the game. Ball exercises are an effective way to strengthen your core and reduce the risk of a back sprain or disk injury. Large exercise balls often are sold with exercise books and diagrams for exercises, or you can schedule with a trainer or therapist and get started!

4) Check your equipment: Make sure your shoes are in good shape and laced tightly. Consider adding arch supports inside your shoes. Stabilizing your feet *within* the shoe can prevent arch pain (plantar fasciitis), achilles strains and ankle sprains. If you have a history of ankle injuries, a lace-up brace worn during play may prevent you from ruining your season with a fracture or severe sprain. Knee braces can add support for arthritic knees or players suffering with tendon injuries around the kneecap (Jumper's Knee). Make sure your paddle handle fits you properly (too big or too small causes muscle strain) and replace the wrapping often to prevent slippage which can lead to blisters and overuse injuries of the hand, wrist and elbow.

Keep moving and keep pickling!

Sandy Lane, M.D.

Fellowship trained Sports Medicine Physician

Associates in Orthopedics – 3 miles from the PicklePlex®!

315 E Olympia Ave, Suite 211

Punta Gorda, Florida

941-637-2663 (637-BONE)

# The APP Tour vs. the PPA Tour

## What Makes these 2 Pickleball Tours Different?

The APP Tour and the PPA. Same letters. Different order. The Association of Pickleball Professionals (APP) and the Professional Pickleball Association (PPA) are recently-created professional pickleball tournament tours with cash prize payouts. Launched in 2020, both tours are ushering in, unquestionably, the most exciting era that the sport of pickleball has ever seen!

With the order of the letters being one difference, there are, indeed, additional differences between the two pickleball tours. Shown below are differences in the APP Tour and PPA pickleball with respect to USA Pickleball sanctioning, total prize money payouts, player rankings and year-end tournaments.

### Highlights

#### USA Pickleball Sanctioning

##### APP Tour

The APP Tour is USA Pickleball sanctioned at the MMP (Medal Match Plus) level. Consequently, an active USA Pickleball membership is required to play in the APP tour events.

##### PPA Tour

The PPA is *not* USA Pickleball sanctioned, and, consequently, a USA Pickleball membership is not required to participate.

#### Prize Money

Here's where it's getting exciting for the pros. Both tours offer pretty significant prize money.

##### APP Tour

Total prize money payout for each APP Tour event ranges from approximately \$25,000 – \$75,000.

##### PPATour

Total prize money payout for each PPA event ranges from \$30,000 – \$150,000.

#### Player Rankings & Year-End Tournament

Both the APP Tour and PPA maintain their own player rankings ("standings") where points are awarded for matches won. At the end of the year, each tour hosts its own season-ending tournament.

##### APP Tour

The year-end APP tournament is the APP Masters Championships and takes place in Punta Gorda, FL.

##### PPA Tour

The year-end PPA tournament is the PPA Championships and takes place at the Darling Tennis Center in Las Vegas, NV.

The above is an edited excerpt, with permission, from PickleballMax.com. The complete article may be found at:

<https://www.pickleballmax.com/2020/10/pickleball-app-tour-ppa-different/>



# Pickleball Around the Web

## Thoughts on Open Play

Sarah Ansboury, a national pickleball champion, wrote a very good article on playing “up and down” during open recreational play. Her thoughts were to play up to get better and play down to practice and to help less skilled players get better. Here’s a link to that article, which expresses her views on playing with those opponents who are at or above your skill level and those who might still be learning elements of the game.

<https://sarahansboury.com/pickleball-open-play/>

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## Pickleball Magazine

And speaking of links, here’s a link to the home page of *PICKLEBALL MAGAZINE*, where you can register for a free “E-Subscription” ....a digital copy of each issue sent to your email address. *Pickleball Magazine* is recognized by USA Pickleball as the “official magazine” of pickleball and is loaded with interesting pickleball-related articles and information.

<https://www.pickleballmagazine.com/>

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## USA Pickleball

USA Professional Pickleball Association recently updated its name to USA Pickleball. Their statement and new logo follow:

“We are excited to announce a brand re-launch that includes a new, modern logo, and an updated website and URL at [usapickleball.org](https://usapickleball.org). The new brand name officially changed from USAPA to USA Pickleball, aligning it with other sports governing bodies and our USA Pickleball National Championships. The new name, logo and website will strengthen USA Pickleball’s worldwide image as the official Pickleball organization in the U.S. and will help attract new players and future ambassadors. “



And USA Pickleball’s website is another great resource for all things pickleball, with information on rules, strategies, places to play, coaching and mentoring, tournaments and much more. Their website can be found at:

<https://usapickleball.org>

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# Pickleball Hall of Fame



## As noted on the USA Pickleball website:

The Pickleball Hall of Fame was formed in 2017 and recognizes individuals who have achieved exceptional results in pickleball play over the course of their career, as well as those who have made exceptional contributions to the growth, development, and leadership of the game. All inductees have also demonstrated a high level of character, integrity, sportsmanship and consideration for others and thus earned the respect and admiration of their peers. Pickleball Central will serve as the initial home of The Pickleball Hall of Fame at their headquarters in Kent, Washington next to The Pickleball Museum.

## As noted on the Pickleball Hall of Fame website, there are two categories of candidates:

Competitor- In order to be considered hall of fame worthy, a candidate in the player category should have dominated for a 5 year period of time. Examples of dominance would be consistently being on the podium at TOC, The US Open or the USAPA Nationals. Only those competing at the highest level will be considered ie: Open Pro, Senior Pro and Age events.

Contributor- In order to be considered hall of fame worthy, a candidate should have impacted the sport of pickleball on the national or international level for a minimum of 5 years. Individuals that may have worked tirelessly in a local region to help grow the sport or get new courts built while invaluable to that area and our sport are not considered hall of fame worthy contributors.

## For more info, visit the Pickleball Hall of Fame website at:

<https://pickleballhalloffame.com>



# Professional Pickleball Player Rankings

Note: Numerous groups rank the pros and all do not agree.

See the basis for rankings in the following two organizations.

Top pro rankings as listed by the Professional Pickleball Association as of 11/13/2020

Ranking based on player results in tournaments on the PPA Grand Slam Tour.

Player	Points		Player	Points
Men's Singles			Women's Doubles	
Ben Johns	3000		Simone Jardim	3000
Tyson McGuffin	1510		Lucy Kovalova	3000
Zane Navratil	960		Jessie Irvine	1950
Women's Singles				
Simone Jardim	2500		Mixed Doubles	
Irina Tereschenko	2250		Simone Jardim	3000
Michelle Esquivel	1600		Ben Johns	3000
Men's Doubles			Jessie Irvine	1660
Ben Johns	2700		Jeffrey Irvine	1660
Matt Wright	2700		Lucy Kovalova	1650
Riley Newman	1730		Matt Wright	1650

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Top Pro Rankings as listed by Pickleball Global as of 11/09/2020

Ranking based on the best 12 tournament results during the last 52 weeks.

Player	Points		Player	Points
Men's Singles			Women's Doubles	
Ben Johns	11000		Simone Jardim	8450
Tyson McGuffin	6850		Lucy Kovalova	7800
Jay Devilliers	5250		Irina Tereschenko	3950
Women's Singles				
Irina Tereschenko	5200		Mixed Doubles	
Simone Jardim	5000		Ben Johns	11000
Michelle Esquivel	3950		Simone Jardim	10600
Men's Doubles			Lucy Kovalova	6150
Ben Johns	10550		Riley Newman	6150
Riley Newman	8100		Matt Wright	5800
Tyson McGuffin	7900		Irina Tereschenko	5700



## Future Events

Lucy Kitcher Pickleplex® Gamma Zero Zero Grand Slam	Nov 21-23, 2020
FLSW-NHS Pickleball Tourney @ Pickleplex®	Dec 12, 2020
American Pickleball Tournament @ Pickleplex®	Dec 18-20, 2020
Punta Gorda Pickleball Open @ PicklePlex®	Jan 6-10, 2021
Spring Fling @ Pickleplex®	Mar 19-21, 2021
<p>For the full calendar of PRP events &amp; details:  <a href="https://www.peaceriverpicklers.com/">https://www.peaceriverpicklers.com/</a></p> <p>For Pickleplex® event details:  <a href="https://www.pickleplex.org/calendar">https://www.pickleplex.org/calendar</a></p>	



## Mission Statement

Peace River Picklers Pickleball club is a nonprofit organization established to cultivate the game of Pickleball through social play, competitive leagues and standardized, consistent educational programs for our members. These activities provide opportunities for players to realize their own potential in an environment that promotes socialization, fun & exercise.



### Upcoming Southwest Florida Pickleball Tournaments

American Pickleball Endless Summer Series....Fort Myers, FL 11/12-15/2020

Lucy Kitcher Gamma Sundial Championship....Sanibel, FL 01/16-18/2021

Winter Classic....Naples, FL 01/29-31/2021

6th Annual 3D Cupid Shootout....Babcock Ranch, FL 02/14-16/2021

Southern Tropics....Naples, FL 03/05-07/2021

Minto US Open Pickleball Championships....Naples, FL 04/17-24/2021

More info on these and other tournaments can be found at:

[https://www.pickleballtournaments.com/pbt\\_main.pl](https://www.pickleballtournaments.com/pbt_main.pl)