

Strathcona County Pickleball Association (SCPA)

Ratings Policy



Preamble

- A. SCPA offers both recreational play (Round Robin, Open Play) and competitive play (League / Ladders / Tournament), opportunities to all members.
- B. Ratings provide a means to compare the skill levels of competitors for tournaments and club level play (round robin, leagues, ladders, skill level brackets) where, for example, there are separate courts for different skill levels.
- C. Effective 2026 participants in a sanctioned tournament must have a DUPR Rating.
- D. To standardize play SCPA implemented a ratings policy. This Policy will be in effect until such time as either Pickleball Canada or Pickleball Alberta implements a standardized policy.
- E. SCPA Board continues to update the Ratings Policy based on changing dynamics.

1.0 APPROVED SKILL LEVEL RATINGS

- 1.1 SCPA has adopted the following acceptable ratings in the priority order referenced below, namely:
 - (a) Sanctioned Tournament Ratings (DUPR) with a minimum of 10 games played in the preceding 12 months.
 - (b) IPTPA Assessments conducted by a recognized IPTPA Professional
 - (c) DUPR Rating with a minimum of 30 games played in the preceding 6-month period
 - (d) SCPA rating sessions – level 2.5 and 3.0

2.0 2.5 AND 3.0 SKILL LEVEL

- 2.1 2.5 is the entry level for players with limited experience in the game. To join SCPA at the 2.5 level a player should provide one of the following credentials, namely:
 - (a) Completion of a beginner / entry level program offered by SCPA

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- (b) Completion of an “Introduction to Pickleball” offered by either of SCPA or an alternate recognized organization
- (c) Have an approved 2.5 Rating from SCPA or an alternate recognized organization.
- (d) Confirmation of playing experience and demonstration of knowledge of the rules of the game by completion of the Introduction to Pickleball Questionnaire.

2.2 To join SCPA at the 3.0 level a player should provide one of the following credentials, namely:

- (a) IPTPA Assessment conducted by a recognized IPTPA Professional
- (b) DUPR Rating with a minimum of 30 games played in the preceding 6-month period

3.0 Ratings Policy for Level 3.0

- 3.1 Players who wish to play at the 3.0 level must have a current assessment pursuant to 1.1 above.
- 3.2 Players moving from 2.5 to 3.0 shall attend an SCPA Rating Assessment offered by its internal assessment team. This assessment will comprise of two segments, skills and observed game play.

4.0 Ratings Policy for Level 3.5 and 4.0+

- 4.1 Players who wish to play at the 3.5 or 4.0 and above level must have a current assessment pursuant to 1.1 above.
- 4.2 As of June 1, 2026, all 3.5 and above members will be required to have an assessment rating that is no more than 36 months old. Members who do not provide an updated assessment will drop down one level (i.e., If you are currently playing as a level 4.0 and have not been reassessed then you will be moved down to the 3.5 level.).
- 4.3 Recertification of 3.5 and 4.0 and above players will consist of observed game play incorporating the standardized IPTPA skills at the 3.5 / 4.0 level (See Appendix A attached).

5.0 Ratings Policy for Level 4.5+

- 5.1 Players who wish to play at 4.5+ must have a Sanctioned Tournament Rating (DUPR) with games played the most recent of which in the preceding 12 months

Board Approval Date: January 22, 2026

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APPENDIX A - SCPA RECERTIFICATION PROCESS

- Players at the 3.5 and 4.0 level are required to participate in a recertification of their skill level every 3 years (36 months).
- Recertification for 3.5 and 4.0 players will consist of 1.5 hours of game play observed by a Certified Rating Specialist.
- A minimum of 3 games played (i.e., 4 player rotation) with a 14-minute time limit set per game.
- Players will be required to achieve 75% of Game Play (i.e., 45/60 possible points), with 27 of the 45 points required to be earned in category 3 Game Play Skills

For example:

- 75% pass for game play:
 - There are 20 Game Play Skills identified in the 3.5 Evaluation
 - Category 2 Drills - good basic form, approaching expectations = 2 points per skill
 - Category 3 Drills - solid, consistent performance, meeting expectations = 3 points per skill
 - Total possible points = 60
- If the player does not meet the recertification requirements, they will be placed into a .5 level lower until such time as they successfully complete a full Assessment by a Certified Rating Specialist.

Abbreviations:

UPTP – United States Tournament Pickleball Rating

WPR – World Pickleball Rating

IPTPA - International Pickleball Teaching Professional Association

DUPR – Dynamic Universal Pickleball Rating