

Robson Ranch Arizona Pickleball Club (RRAZ-PC)

Ratings Policy

August 26, 2025

This document supersedes the September 10, 2024 RRAZ-PC Ratings Policy and all previous RRAZ-PC Ratings Policies, Processes, and Procedures.

I. New Club Members

A. Residents with Pickleball experience and a verifiable skill rating

1. When a Robson Ranch-AZ resident with Pickleball experience joins the RRAZ-PC, their RRAZ-PC skill rating will be determined as the highest of their:
 - i. Previous RRAZ-PC skill rating
 - ii. Rating from another club
 - a. Players claiming another club skill rating must provide written documentation, including proof of membership, evidence of club rating and contact information for that club within 15 days of their membership application submittal.
 - b. The other club must have a numerical rating system in place that is substantially similar to the RRAZ-PC rating system.
 - c. If required documentation can not be provided, or the other club does not have a substantially similar numerical ratings system, the new member must follow Section I,B.
 - d. Player will be provisionally assigned and may play at the stated skill rating for up to 30 days.

Within 30 days, Player will be assessed by RRAZ-PC members at the assigned provisional skill rating as a result of regularly scheduled round-robin play. Based on Player's competitiveness at the stated skill level, provisional status will either be removed, or the Player will be assigned a lower skill .5 below the provisional rating. Skill rating decisions are final.

- e. Player may request a one-time extension of the provisional period if Player is not residing at Robson Ranch during the initial 30-day period.

iii. Arizona Pickleball Players League (APPL) Rating

- a. Players will provide a verifiable APPL two-digit rating (based on their most recently concluded APPL season) to be used as their RRAZ-PC Skill rating.
 - b. APPL ratings under appeal are not eligible for club ratings.
2. In accordance with Article X, Section 4 of the RRAZ-PC Bylaws, the Club Treasurer will verify the rating and notify the new member of their RRAZ-PC skill rating.
 3. After assignment of a RRAZ-PC skill rating, club members may advance to a higher RRAZ-PC skill rating by participating in the Skill Rating Advancement Process outlined in Section II below.
 4. DUPR, IPTPA, UTR-P. ratings by observation, and self-ratings of any type are not accepted as a basis of RRAZ-PC skill rating.

B. Residents with no Pickleball experience, or those with Pickleball experience

1. When a Robson Ranch resident with no Pickleball experience, or with Pickleball experience but no verified skill rating joins the RRAZ-PC, their
 - i. RRAZ-PC skill rating is temporarily classified as Novice (2.0 skill level) and must attend the free RRAZ-PC Beginner Class(es) to establish a RRAZ-PC skill rating.
 - ii. During these classes, the RRAZ-PC Beginner Instructors explain the Pickleball games rules, demonstrate the various game skills, and emphasize safety awareness.
 - iii. Students have the opportunity to play with other students (and instructors as needed) in a Round Robin format (up to 6 games per class) and record their scores for each game played.
 - iv. The Lead RRAZ-PC Beginner Instructor(s) evaluates each student for:
 - v. Knowledge of Pickleball game rules.
 - vi. Knowledge of Pickleball game etiquette.
 - vii. Safety rules and proper attire, especially footwear.
 - viii. Pickleball Skills; e.g., serving, score keeping, court position, ball return, forehand/backhand skill, and dinking.
2. Based on each student's demonstrated game knowledge and skills performance during the Round Robin games, the Lead RRAZ-PC Instructor assigns that student

an initial RRAZ-PC skill rating of 2.0, 2.5, 3.0 or 3.5. Most students with no prior pickleball experience will achieve an initial RRAZ-PC skill rating of 2.5.

3. After assignment of a RRAZ-PC skill rating, club members may advance to a higher RRAZ-PC skill rating by participating in the Skill Rating Advancement Process outlined in Section II below.

II. RRAZ-PC Skill Rating Advancement Processes

RRAZ-PC provides these processes to enable members to obtain a higher CLUB RATING. Participation in these rating processes is strictly voluntary and not a club requirement.

- A. Participate in the RRAZ-PC Skills Ratings Process for 2.5 -> 3.0 -> 3.5 -> 4.0 -> 4.5 advancement as described below:
 - i. Members wanting to advance their skill rating level may request an assessment to the next higher skill rating level at any time after the new season is announced by RRAZ-PC.
 - ii. Requests will be administered by the RRAZ-PC Testing Coordinator on a first-come, first-served basis. Requests must be submitted via email as described by RRAZ-PC when the new season is announced.
 - iii. Assessments will be conducted during the period of October through March. The testing season will begin once the number of club members available for play is sufficient to support a robust testing process and will be suspended whenever the number of club members available for play no longer supports a robust testing process. Robustness is in terms of being sufficiently representative of the group skill level. The RRAZ-PC Board in conjunction with the Testing Coordinator will make this determination.
 - iv. The Testing Coordinator will notify the applicant of dates, times and locations of the next level assessment.
 - v. Failure to show up on time or miss the scheduled assessment will cause the applicant to forfeit, resulting in the need to re-apply to participate at a later date. Re-applications will go to the end of the existing first-come, first-served backlog of testing applicants. Exception may be made if candidate has an injury, illness, family emergency, or other situation acceptable to Testing Coordinator. In such case, the Testing Coordinator will make arrangements to reschedule the assessment. The Testing Coordinator needs to be notified of exceptions at least 2 hours prior to the start time of the scheduled assessment.
 - vi. For the next level assessment, up to 2 applicants will play in two Round Robin matches (6 games each) with and against players rated at the next level.
 - vii. From a predetermined list of players, the Court Monitor will choose 6 to play as Control Players. The Court Monitor, or designee will construct an 8-player sign-up sheet and use the balanced 8-player Round Robin sheet to ensure

- the 2 applicants do not play on the same court together as partners or opponents. Two courts will be designated for the resulting Round Robin play.
- viii. For gender skill groups with 50 or fewer members at the start of the testing season, Control Players from neighboring communities (e.g., Mission Royale, Palm Creek, etc.) may be used to augment the skill group in order to provide a fair and balanced assessment, when necessary.
 - ix. Scoring is to 11, win by 1. Rally scoring is not to be used in skill rating assessment games.
 - x. Each applicant will be provided a scoresheet for the Round Robin. Applicants will be responsible for recording all game scores along with relevant information including player initials and submitting the scoresheet to the Court Monitor, or designee at the conclusion of the Round Robin. The Court Monitor or designee will initial and provide the scoresheet to the Testing Coordinator.
 - xi. The 12-game total score needed to successfully advance to the next level is 96.
 - xii. If an applicant scores less than 30 total points in their first Round Robin (6 games), the applicant will not play the second Round Robin because it is impossible to score the required total points for advancement.
 - xiii. Applicants that do not achieve 96 points will be able to re-test if they achieve at least 92 points , but will be required to wait 60 days before retesting. Applicants are limited to 1 re-test per testing season.
 - xiv. The RRAZ-PC Testing Coordinator will notify each applicant the result of their assessment and for those advancing, when they may begin playing at the next skill level.
 - xv. Unsuccessful applicants are encouraged to seek additional training/play and reapply for next level assessment when eligible.
 - xvi. Procedures for weather postponement (e.g., wind, rain), time-outs and injury protocols shall be documented and in place at the beginning of the testing season. Additional procedures may be adopted and documented throughout the season to address situations as needed. The Ratings Coordinator, Skills Level Focal Point, Court Monitor, or designee will have the final decision on items related to game-day protocol.

B. Players that participated in APPL may advance to a higher rating based on their APPL two-digit rating (based on their most recently concluded APPL season).

- i. Players must provide their verifiable APPL rating.
- ii. APPL ratings under appeal are not eligible for club ratings.

III. RRAZ-PC Skill Rating Reduction

Members can request a skill level reduction at any time. Skill level reductions may be either temporary or permanent.

- A. Temporary skill level reductions may be requested for medical reasons or situations where a member feels they are temporarily not competitive at their current skill level. A member who makes this request may make a request to be reinstated to their prior ratings level within a 1-year time period. Both requests must be made in writing to the RRAZ-PC Board. A temporary skill level reduction will be denoted on the club roster. If a request for reinstatement is not received within 1 year, the skill rating reduction will become permanent.
- B. Permanent skill level reductions may be requested in situations where a member feels they are not competitive at their current skill level and do not anticipate returning to their current level. The request must be made in writing to the RRAZ-PC Board. Should the situation change at some point in the future, the member will have the ability to use any of the RRAZ-PC Skill Rating Advancement Processes described in Section II.

IV. Roles

- A. Treasurer. RRAZ-PC Board member and Club officer. Responsible for maintaining current club roster with up-to-date club ratings. Serves as point of contact for new club members with pickleball experience and a skill rating for the process described by Section I.A. Serves as point of contact for Lead Beginner Instructor for the process described by Section I.B. Serves as point of contact for members advancing through the processes described by Section II. Serves as point of contact for Testing Coordinator for the process described by Section II. Serves as point of contact for club members requesting ratings reduction through the process described by Section III. Contact: rrpbtreasure@gmail.com.
- B. Testing Coordinator. Responsible for the implementation of the RRAZ-PC skill rating advancement process described by Section II.C. Serves as the focal point for scheduling and communication with testers and others involved in the assessment process. Contact: rraz.pickleball.ratings@gmail.com.
- C. Court Monitors will assist the Testing Coordinator, as needed to administer the process described by Section II.C. Ensures that Round Robin sheets do not have 2 applicants playing on the same court as partners or opponents prior to the start of play, Facilitates the dynamic creation of Round Robin participants using a balanced 8-person Control Player Round Robin sheet. Serves as point of contact during Round Robin play (may be an observer or a player). Responsible for collecting scoresheets from applicants and validating that they are properly completed and signed prior to submission to the Testing Coordinator.
- D. Control Player. Club member who participates in the testing process described by Section II. when a balanced 8-person Control Player Round Robin sheet is used. Will

play with each applicant once as a partner and twice as an opponent during a 6-game Round Robin. A Control Player should be representative of the skill group the applicant is testing for and should neither be a top 10% nor bottom 10% player in the skill group.

- E. Lead Beginner Instructor. Responsible for the implementation of the RRAZ-PC new member process described by Section I.B and communicating results of ratings assessments to appropriate parties for club roster updates.