

COMPETITIVE ROUND ROBIN PLAY

Advanced & Hi Intermediate

Hello GC Pickleball Club Members:

The Competition and Development Committee (C&DC) has met to discuss the results and comments from our recent survey regarding the Round Robin format. As you can imagine, there was a mixed bag of opinions on the new Round Robin / scoring format. Some members like the format and the opportunity for more competitive games, while others do not and have subsequently removed themselves from Round Robin play. This was never the intent to have people not play in the Round Robins.

Based on the survey results and after much discussion and deliberation, the C&DC has come up with next steps in the Round Robin Competitive Play that will hopefully satisfy the majority. As a significant number of people were not comfortable with the scoring, the targeting of players, and the focus on increasing a GPN rating at the expense of fair play, that issue had to be discussed. We do recognize, however, that the **Round Robins were always intended to be competitive** and if a player is deemed out of position or making errors, it is common sense that the opposition will force the play to someone who may *not* be in a position to return the ball well.

At both the Advanced Level and the High Intermediate level, where final game scores were being inputted into GPN (Global Pickleball Network) at both the 8 am and the 10 am sessions, this will have a slight adjustment.

ADVANCED and HIGH INTERMEDIATE LEVELS:

8 AM Session - Games will continue to be scored and entered into GPN. This will ensure that players are getting competitive games with people of a similar skill level. If you are not comfortable or do not want to keep scores recorded for a park-level GPN rating, then consider signing up for the 10 AM session.

10 AM Session - Games will continue to be competitive and we highly recommend you adhere to the suggestion of skill level [as noted on the website](#) for each of Hi Inter and Advanced levels to play. However, this session will focus more on Development at your level. (NOTE: This does not mean this is a Clinic!!) **Scores are NOT recorded in GPN at this session at either Advanced or Hi Intermediate level!!!!** However, when playing at this level, if a critical pickleball skill is being executed incorrectly, a PRE-Designated Advanced or High Intermediate player may have a respectful conversation with you privately to help with the Development part of the game. In no way is this meant to offend anyone, but to offer constructive advice to help your game. If this is not something you are amenable to, then consider whether competitive Round Robins are a format you are comfortable playing in. There are standards for development as noted here:

1. Developmental suggestions will be limited to one suggestion for a player to work on for that Round Robin session. There will be one to two Designated Developmental Players at each 10 am session for High Intermediate and Advanced Players. Only they will be giving suggestions to participants. No other players.
2. All suggestions/ conversations should be clear, concise and friendly. These are our neighbors.
3. Once a suggestion is made you should check back with the player after a couple games to see if there are any questions or concerns pertaining to the developmental skill they were advised on.
4. There should be two Designated Developmental Players available for each 10 am Round Robin session. But one for sure.
5. This development approach will be announced and explained to all players both High Intermediate and Advanced before the 10 am sessions start.

The 10 am sessions for High Intermediate and Advanced are designed for development of skills toward improving play while the 8 am sessions in both levels are for highly competitive games and GPN scoring. Please attempt to play at the appropriate session for your level rather than simply choosing a Round Robin time based on your scheduling convenience.

Movement between levels - For those wanting to work on their game and move up to the High Intermediate or Advanced 8 am sessions where scoring is recorded and level of play is critical - you are welcome to contact the Coordinator of that level ([listed on the website](#)) and ask to be invited (through [Sign Up Genius](#)) so you can test your skill level out at that level. It is recommended you attend at least two of the 8 am sessions and see how you fare in that level. If you find that you are not winning many games and being targeted / out of position / unable to return shots - you can move again to the 10 am sessions and continue improving your game.

New People to the Park/Club - MUST begin in the 10 AM session until they are comfortable with the level of play (minimum of 2 sessions) before requesting to move up to the 8 am scoring sessions. It is highly recommended that new club members come and watch the level they are interested in playing in before deciding where they best fit.

This alteration in format to the Round Robins is more inclusive for all. It still provides highly competitive games and scoring for those that want it, it provides development and fun, and it provides a platform for all those seeking more competitive play at the level they desire.

We will implement this plan for the month of March and monitor feedback from our membership.