



## **JUNE, 2016 NEWSLETTER**

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### **YES, I KNOW JUNE IS SOON NOT NOW**

For three reasons the June newsletter is being sent a few days early. First, you should have the real info on the Sr Games, not what you read in the May newsletter. Second, some of you haven't had a chance to sign up for the summer-long half-court singles ladder and deserve a chance to sign up, before you're routinely put on the bottom rung. Third, in June my personal life will interfere with my pickleball LIFE more than usual.

### **THE REAL DATES FOR THE SR GAMES**

"Someone" mysteriously put a link to **last year's** prospectus for the 6-County Senior Games (formerly "Olympics") in our May newsletter. Here's the right one:

[https://ilipra.memberclicks.net/assets/docs/senior%20games%202016%20final\\_2.pdf](https://ilipra.memberclicks.net/assets/docs/senior%20games%202016%20final_2.pdf)

Again, competition will be within 5-year age groups so, if you can find partners who are within a few years of you, you'll likely be your most competitive.

### **SYCAMORE SUMMER STARTS NOW**

Our official start date is Memorial Day, Monday, June 30<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. Because I've sent e-mail replies to several members who have asked this past week what our summer schedule is, I'll give them to all of you again. Play starts at Sycamore Park at 9:00 on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Should you arrive early, please allow players to play their singles ladder games, if they wish, until 8:50. 8:30 is an ideal time for some of those games to be played. We also play at 4:00 on both Thursday and Sunday afternoons.

You won't need to bring your own balls, but you will want to bring something to drink, as there is no fountain or nearby 7-11 Slupree to quench your thirst. You may want to bring a chair as you'll likely have at least as much "down time" as you've had at Falcon.

We do not do a "next up" paddle thing. We've had great success with the honor system, trying to avoid anyone sitting much longer than anyone else, but striving to put foursomes of similar skill on each court.

# JUST MAYBE...MORE PLAY THIS WEEKEND

A few players have said they may swing by Sycamore at 4:00 this Sunday, a week before our official Sunday start date. I know they'll be at least one player there.

## MORE U.S. OPEN ACTION

To watch our own Chuck Feinstein & Seymour Rifkind in action in the men's 4.5 championships, go to:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jAG9Yf3AM70&list=PL0D89c4nt4hQbkbSsbJxEfhfUvk747SHK&index=34>

There's a lot of videos on YouTube, but if you'd like to see more local (not necessarily Palatine) players, go to Rick Johnson's collection of videos at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVA4MCnctIGW1dzZ8jauyEg>

## ADD YOUR RUNG TO THE LADDER

By the end of the week, I'll have turned all of this over to Jim Simmons. He'll have a random draw to establish the starting rungs. He'll be glad to add a new bottom rung for you later, but why not get in at the beginning and have better than a 97% chance of not starting at the bottom. I've fielded a lot of questions so let me answer these for all of you.

**WHAT'S THE LAYOUT OF THE COURT?** It is the 10' wide either left or right side of any pickleball court. That's it. There's no "cross court" serving or play. You protect only your 10' x 22' area and hit directly over the net to your opponent's 10' x 22' area.

**HOW MANY POINTS MAKES A GAME?** 15, but you must win by 2 points. The ladder play calls for one game to 15 (switch sides at 8, to balance effects of wind and sun). However, by mutual consent, you and your opponent may decide to play 2 out of 3 to 11 or whatever else you'd like. As you get more experienced at this half-court game, you'll probably agree that one game to 15 is plenty.

**WHEN DO WE PLAY?** Whenever you and your challenged player or your challenger agree to play.

**WHERE DO WE PLAY?** Wherever the two of you agree to play.

**WHO SETS UP THE GAMES?** The participant who challenges the player directly or two rungs above him/her on the ladder.

**WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE GAME?** If, and only if, the challenger wins, he/she e-mails Jim with that news. Jim will supply his contact info (phone, e-mail, or both as he chooses), when he sends all participants the starting ladder's rung occupants.

**WHAT IF I'M AWAY FOR WEEKS AT A TIME?** No problem. If you are challenged and cannot play within 10 days, your challenger will notify Jim who will declare the challenger the winner and move you down one rung. No big deal.

**WHO CAN I CHALLENGE?** You may challenge only the person on the rung directly above you or two rungs up.

**WHEN DOES THE LADDER BEGIN AND END?** It begins when Jim sends the starting ladder to everyone. Jim will make the determination as to the final day of ladder play, based on weather, but it will be approximately the time Falcon's indoor season begins.

**HOW LONG DO I HAVE TO WAIT TO RE-CHALLENGE SOMEONE?** Three days after your game, you may re-challenge the person above you to whom you lost.

**ARE THE RULES THE SAME?** Yes, but realize you won't have to call the score with three numbers, because there's only one of you. Losing your serve results in a side out. Also, this game aims to improve your games. Do not let a foot fault or kitchen violation go uncalled.

**DO YOU THINK I'M GOOD ENOUGH FOR THIS?** Everyone is good enough. A novice may play an advanced player in an early challenge or two, but you'll get through it and may even pick up a few tips. After a few challenges, it's the nature of a ladder to find the stronger players climbing rungs, while weaker ones move down. The more ladder games you play, the more you'll find your matches get competitive and really fun.

**HOW DO WE KNOW WHERE EVERYONE IS ON THE LADDER?** Jim will send out regularly updated ladders to all participants. Last year once a week was adequate. With already more than twice the participants, it may be more frequent. If Jim, or anyone who wants to volunteer, can set up an online ladder on our website or somewhere, that would be fantastic, but that wondrous possibility is beyond my pay grade.

**BY WHEN DO I HAVE TO DECIDE TO JOIN THE LADDER?** To be on a starting rung, you have to let me know by this Wednesday, June 1<sup>st</sup>. That's when I'll expect to turn the names and contact info of all participants over to Jim. HOWEVER, if you see everyone having so much fun with this that, by July, you decide you want in on it, notify Jim (or me, if you don't have his contact info). You'll be added to the new, bottom rung of the ladder.

**HAVE YOU NOW ANSWERED EVERY CONCEIVABLE QUESTION ABOUT THE LADDER?** Good grief, I hope so.

## **AWAITING THEIR RUNGS**

There were a couple entries that, I'm sorry, I could not read. If you do not see your name below but had signed the sheet, e-mail me with your name and phone number so I can add you right away. Thank you. Those who've already signed up for the half-court singles ladder are, in alphabetical order of first names: Ann Blanchard, Anne Stein, April Volpe, Bear Shatwell, Bob Huber, Bob Marra, Brian Keenan, Carole Dansdill, Debbie Paneral, Dori Caruso, Elke Jacobsen, Fred Caruso, Greg Woodsum, Henry Laxgang, Janice Orłowski, Jim Blair, Jim Simmons, John Forshall, Karin Beil, Larry Shoemake, Larry Wollheim, Leslie Lorenz, Linda Chung, Linda Mihel, Lyinne Weisbart, Marti Marra, Melody Woodsum, Mike Rosenblum, Milie Maag, Pat Grant, Peggy Deevers, Rob Paneral, Sandy Barreca, Satish Sura, Steve Erdmann, Sue Mok, Teresa Scola, Tina Labellarte, Tom Kramer. This is a good start, but I'd like to see all Picklers on this list. E-mail me.

## **IS THE NEXT TRAVEL TEAM IN YOUR FUTURE?**

All 36 Palatine participants truly enjoyed their experience playing on one of our travel league rosters this winter. This was a one-size-fits-all league. That created major disparity. While we fit 36 players into our 12-player team, over the course of the season, Hoffman Estates fielded only their best available players. Hoffman is a club of "horses" in the first place so we, and the other two teams even more so, got routinely thrashed by them each of the ten matches. Well, Picklers, that's not what will be happening next season. The horses, including the few in our stable, won't be in the league in which most of us will be playing. Our own Princess of Power, Dana Joseph, will be running the Canlan travel league/s. She and I have had several conversations about the future of the travel league. For Palatine, Libertyville, Park Ridge, and DuPage teams, an "intermediate league (or two) is appropriate. Dana and I have brainstormed the possibility of upper and lower intermediate leagues, thus allowing many more of our Palatine players to experience travel play.

I realize it's a very subjective term, but if you consider yourself an intermediate level player and would like to play, even if just one match, **e-mail me** with your interest. (Be sure to include your name, as I don't recognize all 300 e-mail addresses.) **Also, tell me** if you'd be interested in a fall, travel league, in addition to the winter one. Perhaps, if there's enough interest in that, we can get a few of our "snowbirds" to enjoy a match or two, before they head to outdoor play in Florida or Arizona (or Colorado, for the Dursts and Neal Warner). Thanks.

## BACK BY REQUEST

Each time I think we've exhausted the interest in another order of Palatine Pickler T-shirts, I'm asked to get more. With three requests since our May order, it's time to start collecting your sizes and color preferences again. Once I've collected \$10-\$12 for at least a dozen shirts, I'll place our next order. Here again are the colors: Sports Grey, Carolina Blue, Safety Pink, Safety Green (yellow), Lime, and Safety Orange. These are \$10 each, \$12 for XXL.



Ladies V-neck shirts are available for \$11 in cornsilk yellow (shown without our logo), lime (similar to the lime on our regular Ts), azalea pink (lighter), sapphire (lighter than our regular blue), and sport gray (identical).

## FOUND A FEW MORE FACES

It's gotten hard to find players to whom you haven't been photographically introduced, but here's a few.



Brian K



Marc K



Joan R



Jeff S

See you on the courts,  
Bear Shatwell, Pickler Prez