

WBC Pickleball Ladder

Friday Night Ladder

The Friday Night Pickleball Ladder offers friendly competitive play for pickleball players. Players move up and down the ladder rankings based on their performance during ladder games.

Skill Levels

Participants are asked to rate their skill level:

- S1 (Top Level): For players who are competitive with the club's strongest players.
- S2 (Intermediate Level): For players with solid skills who may not be able to keep pace with top-tier S1 players—possibly due to age or athleticism.
- S3 (Developmental Level): For all other players who want to enjoy competitive Friday night play but are still building their skills.

Players may choose their skill level to begin the season. Movement between levels is permitted, but must follow these guidelines:

- Players may move up if they feel under-challenged.
- Players may move down if the competition is too intense.
- No movement between skill levels will be allowed in the final 6 weeks of the ladder season.
- Players will be reset to the bottom of the ladder after a level change.

Game Scheduling

Four games are used for ladder ranking each Friday night. A software routine schedules the games by:

1. Determining the number of groups based on the number of players in attendance. The maximum number of groups is four (the number of courts available).
2. Determining the size of the group based on the number of groups and the number of players in attendance. Some groups may have one more participant than the others.
3. Sorting the players in attendance by skill level and ranking on the ladder. (This is done to facilitate assigning players to a group that they will play with for the evening.)
4. Determining the group that the players will be in. (The routine assigns players to a group from the sorted list so that players with a similar skill level are grouped together.)
5. Determining partners and competitors for each game. (Lower ranked players from a skill level may play with or against higher ranked players from the next lower skill level). Note - When only four players are assigned to a group, the computer randomly decides on which players will play together twice.
6. Determining the starting court for each group. (Randomly generated by the computer.)

Climbing the ladder

A software routine is used to determine each player's ranking on the ladder. The ladder consists of 5 steps: A (top) to E (starting point). All players start a new series on Step E (the bottom of the ladder).

Each week, rankings are updated based on the following:

- Players who win more than 50% of their games move up one step.
- Players who win less than 50% move down one step, except:
 - No movement from Step D to E.
 - Players who lose while playing against a higher skill level player remain at their current step.
- Players who win exactly 50% stay at the same step.
- Players who miss (are absent) for a week are moved down a step unless:
 - They've played at least 6 weeks (23+ games) *and*
 - Have participated in 65% or more of the ladder nights.
 - No player will be moved from Step D to Step E due to absence.

Ranking on the Ladder

The ladder application determines the ranking after play on a Friday night by sorting the statistics of all players on the ladder by:

- The new ladder rung assigned to a player
- The winning percentage for the current week
- The points scored in all 4 games for the current week
- Year to date points scored.

Note - S3 players can rank higher on the ladder than S1 players that they will never play. The ladder simply reflects the success of the players performance against other members of his skill level.

Playoffs

Two trophies are awarded at the end of the series.

- 🏆 The “Dink” Trophy will be awarded to the S1 playoff champion.
- 🏆 The “Big Dill” Trophy will go to the S2 playoff champion.

(Note: There will be no playoff or trophy for S3.)

Playoff Structure for S1 and S2:

- Top 4 players in each skill level will qualify for the playoffs.
- Players will compete in 6 games, rotating partners so each player teams up with every other participant twice.
- The winner will be determined by most wins, with total points scored as the tiebreaker.
- If still tied, the player who finished highest on the regular-season ladder will be declared the winner.

Note that players must have played at least 20 games during the ladder series to qualify for the playoffs.

December 2025.