

REVISED EVALUATION POLICY

Members have raised some concerns about the evaluation process, ranging from subjectivity and consistency to the number of times candidates are observed. The evaluation team shares some of these concerns, and also needs to regularize the demands on their (volunteered) time. To address these concerns, we are modifying our procedures as follows:

- At the beginning of each month, the evaluation team will designate and advertise three days per month, usually the last three weekdays, during which a maximum of six players may be formally evaluated (two per day).
- A candidate must notify the evaluation team he/she wished to be evaluated.
- The evaluation team will send the candidate two USAPA Skill Assessments forms: one for the current rating and one for the rating to which the candidate wishes to advance.
- Prior to the formal evaluation, there will be an observation period during which at least two evaluators will observe the candidate's play. The candidate will have completed the skill assessment forms prior to the observation period.
- The evaluators will discuss with the candidate the Skill Assessments, as well as the candidate's observed play, as part of the observation period.
- Following the observation period and the discussion, if the candidate still wishes to be formally evaluated, the evaluation team will schedule a formal evaluation.
- The playmates will be instructors, complemented as necessary by designated players (those with well-rounded pickleball skills). This should result in a more standardized exam.
- The evaluation team will use the USAPA Skill Assessment forms to mathematically determine pass/fail results. For a player to advance, the score should indicate that he/she has good basic form at this level, has mastered some skills, but still needs work in a few areas.

This method will improve evaluation objectivity and consistency. Note: For rating changes beyond the 3.0 level, barring the rare exception, a player should remain in a rating class for a minimum of three months prior to advancement. This experience will allow learning to occur at each level.