

Michigan Pickleball News

Special Edition By Dick Manasseri

June 2010

● Rochester Pickleball Club Tournament and Festival

● Rochester High School Outdoor Courts

● August 25-29th

The detailed registration form is available at

http://www.usapa.org/file/mi/RPC_2010_Tournament_and_Festival.pdf

The price is right!

\$5 per event plus the \$10 general registration fee which is waived for USAPA Members.

(Do the math and join the USAPA now <http://usapa.org/memberships/index.php>)

Something for everyone:

- Beginner's Clinic – Wednesday 1pm
- Recreational Speed Pickleball for all ages – Wednesday 9am
- Boys and Girls Singles, Doubles and Mixed Doubles – Thursday & Friday 9am
- Mixed Generation – Saturday 3pm



- USAPA Sanctioned Tournament (Tier 4)
 - Adult (19+. 35+), Senior (50+ in 5-year age groups)
 - Women's Doubles – Wednesday 5pm
 - Men's Doubles -- Thursday 5pm
 - Mixed Doubles – Friday 5pm
 - Men's & Women's Singles – Saturday 9am
 - Michigan's First Skill Level Men's & Women's Doubles
 - Sunday 2pm
 - Play at your own skill level regardless of age.
 - Ratings: 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0
 - Learn more about ratings below
 - These skill level events are an opportunity for new players to participate in the tournament against other players of their level. What a great way to experience a tournament if you have just become involved in the world of Pickleball.

● To Be (Rated) or Not To Be

You can find all of the details regarding ratings at http://usapa.org/ratings/ratings_doc.html#whatisrating including the Rating Guidelines, Descriptions, Appeals Process, etc.

Ratings help me establish my skill level relative to a national set of criteria and relative to other players. This is a good thing for several reasons:

- It's my choice (to be rated or not to be).
- Ratings are open to Beginners, Novice, Intermediate, and Advanced players alike and there are rated activities for all of these skill levels.
- I can compete in rated events at my own skill level regardless of age. For many players, this means that I get to play more games than I might if I competed strictly by age group. (Players with a higher rating will not be playing in my group. I can play up into a higher rating group if I choose.)
- I get a better shot at a sound seeding in age group tournament play because the tournament director has access to player ratings
- I know where I stand and I know what additional skills I need to work on to move the next level, if I so desire.
- I can evaluate skill clinics that are focused on the specific skills I am seeking to improve.
- Where Drop-in play is organized by skill rating, I know that I will find players of a similar skill level. There will typically be open Drop-in play as well where I can play with my friends of different skill levels.

How do I get a rating?

Typically, ratings are acquired by entering a rated event such as the Sunday August 29th events that are part of the Rochester Pickleball Club Tournament and Festival

http://www.usapa.org/file/mi/RPC_2010_Tournament_and_Festival.pdf

Some players have already been given initial ratings based on previous tournament results and recommendations by tournament directors. The Kalamazoo Doubles Tournament was an ideal opportunity to establish initial ratings for players because there were several in-state and out-of-state players with USAPA ratings that could serve as benchmarks. In addition, the Tournament Directors, USAPA Ambassadors Bob Northrop and Melissa Muha, and Ambassadors-at-Large Jim and Yvonne Hackenberg volunteered to analyze the results of the tournament to establish initial ratings for the 100+ participants. Ambassador Pat Sullivan has joined the ongoing Michigan Ratings Group that will be led by Jim and Yvonne and expanded as needed.

You may find out if you have already been assigned a rating by going to the [Ratings section](#) of the USAPA website. If you have a question about your initial rating, please contact Jim and Yvonne Hackenberg yhacken@aol.com

If you don't have a USAPA rating, then you may rate yourself when you enter a rated event for the first time. Your initial self rating must be approved by the tournament director. Depending upon your tournament results, your self-rating could be changed if it appears to be obviously wrong.

We play Pickleball for the Fun of It. Let's enjoy the fitness, friends, and fun of It whether we choose to be rated or not.

Online Skills Improvement Clinic

There is no substitute for a hands-on clinic with the outstanding teachers that we have in our midst, e.g. Lewis Forrest, the Hackenbergs, the Wittkowskis, Nancy Thoenes, Pat Sullivan, Renard Kolasa, etc.

Still it is good to see that CMN-TV has produced a second 30-minute Pickleball program that is being broadcast on its stations and is also available on line at <http://www.livelonglivewell.org/gpage19.html>

This skills improvement video was produced by health consultant Mark Maxwell and features Nancy Thoenes, Lewis Forrest and Lynn and Vic Wittkowski. Mark tells me that he has already had 35,000 hits to the pages with the Pickleball videos just in the last several weeks.

Check it out and incorporate the drills and strategies into your game.

● **“Pure Michigan” Pickleball**

The “Pure Michigan” music ... Tim Allen’s voice...

The sound of Pickleball’s “POP” and the laughter that follows...

Someday, Pickleball will be part of the official “Pure Michigan” story.

One big step in that direction is the decision of the West Michigan Sports Commission to include

Pickleball in the 2011 Meijer State Games of Michigan, June 24-26, 2011 in Grand Rapids.

Check out the 2010 Meijer States Games of Michigan at

<http://www.stategamesofmichigan.com/>

Notice the professional organization of the State Games and mark your calendar for next year. (Pickleball will be added to this website later this year with the details for 2011.)

Stay tuned for more information from USAPA Ambassadors Dick Draigh and Jeanne and John Schowalter. They prepared and presented our proposal to be accepted in the 2011 Games, and Dick is serving as our Pickleball Commissioner for the event. For questions and/or suggestions, contact Dick at rdraigh@aol.com . Please include the word “Pickleball” in your subject line so that Dick will know your mail is not spam.

● **The Joy of Outdoor Courts**

Outdoor Pickleball courts, whether taped, dual painted, or dedicated, are indeed a joy.

In addition to the officially scheduled drop-in, ladder and tournament play, the courts are just there all day for us to use as we choose. We can

- Bring a parent, son, daughter and/or grandchildren to introduce this wonderful family game
- Get a small group together to meet for drills
- Actually have court time to work on our Singles game
- Turn a casual conversation about the crazy game we love into a fun experience for a new set of players from the neighborhood.

Enjoy!