Introduction: Proposal to Develop an Optional Skills Rating Systems for use by SCA Pickleball Club Members

As the number of SCA residents playing pickleball has increased significantly from an initial club size of 86 members in 2010 to over 510 members in 2023, it has become important to make sure the needs of all of our club members are met in a variety of different ways. Over the last decade, some of our club members expressed the desire to be competitive and wanted us to organize tournaments, classes, and weekly meet up events. We did this. Now we face a different type of desire/need from many of our members; their desire to play against players with similar skills levels in games and in tournaments. Many different pickleball clubs have responded to this growing demand to categorize or group players into skill levels over the last six years and in fact, over 20 HOA pickleball clubs have adopted a skills rating system in the Southwest alone.

As many other clubs throughout the country have found out, developing a skills rating system can be a productive way to meet the needs of most, if not all, of their playing members who want to play against players of similar ability levels. Starting in March of this year, two SCA board members and some of your pickleball veterans decided to form a subcommittee (**) to explore and ultimately propose a new skills rating system. Members of the Skills Subcommittee are:
1. Pam Leslie
2. Mario Najera
3. Larry Strumwasser
4. Tom Lee
5. Mike Messenger

To ensure members actually wanted to use a new pickleball skills system, the skills subcommittee**, developed a short survey in April of 2023 to gauge potential member support for the development of an optional rating system and asked members for their input. The results showed 67% of the members supported the development of a ratings system (74 out of 111) This was very encouraging to the Board and we decided to develop a description of how the system could be developed at SCA and how it would work. However, some of the club's members gave us feedback that they had not been given enough information on how the skills rating system would work and how it would affect their opportunities to play if they opted out of the skills rating system. These members asked us for another opportunity to vote on the skills rating system after they had seen more information on how the system would work. We have developed two documents to meet this request for more information:

1) Document 1- How the Club plans to develop and implement a skills rating system to allow members to initially self rate their skills levels, (click on the link below to access this document,)
Description of SCA skills rating process for Club Members

2) Document 2- How the skills system would be used in everyday pickleball play, tournaments and charity events. (click on the link below to access this document,)

   How the Skills ratings will be used by the SCA pickleball Club

We ask that each pickleball club member read these two documents and then go to our website to vote on whether or not to proceed to implement the skills system. Members who have any questions about the contents or meaning of these two documents are urged to contact one of the members of the skills subcommittee via email or phone to get your questions answered.
The voting system on the website will be open from Monday July 31st to Thursday August 31st. You will not be able to cast a vote before or after this time period.

To access the voting system and vote on whether you want to see the skills rating process implemented for our pickleball club, click on the link below. You must be logged in to the site before you can access the vote "page" so please log in to the site before clicking on this link. If you are not logged in, you will not be able to access the site or vote.
https://pickleball.scaclub.org/club/voting/ballot/14

For your convenience this entire introduction document is also available on the club website at: https://pickleball.scaclub.org/media/496