

2022 USSP Tournament Planning Tool – For Tournament Directors

USSP Tournament Planning Tool is for use by tournament directors. This tool will provide guidance and direction during the listing and implementation of a USSP circuit event. The planning tool and tournament guidelines/procedures will be administered by the TD with assistance from a USSP Zone Director.

- 1) Tournament Directors and venues will be approved by the USSP Zone Director prior to being approved by the Executive Director.
- 2) Full financial responsibilities will be the sole responsibility of the TD.
- 3) Non-USSP members will pay the full registration cost for a USSP circuit event while members will receive a **\$10 discount**.
- 4) TD's will pay USSP \$10 from the registration fee for each non-member.
- 5) Fees will be due to the USSP treasurer within 7 days after the conclusion of the tournament.
- 6) TD's agree to follow the guidelines for play brackets specified below.

Payment:

- 1) Make Check to: US Senior Pickleball, c/o USSP Treasurer, Dave Allenbaugh, 2395 Delaware Ave #45, Santa Cruz, CA 95060
- 2) Or transfer funds to the SSIPA Paypal account through USSP Treasurer
- 3) Or contact Dave Allenbaugh, 831-334-7178 or email at ussp.tre@gmail.com for other arrangements.

Listing and Access for a tournament:

- 1) Tournaments will be listed on pickleballbrackets.com
- 2) The tournament administrator must give the USSP Zone Director administrative access to the tournament.

Tournament Balls and Paddles:

- 1) IFP approved balls and paddles only will be used for tournament play.
- 2) Franklin Sports has provided balls in the past at discounts.

Tournament Shirts and Server Bands:

- 1) Pickleball Rocks has provided shirts at a discounted price in the past.
- 2) Pickleball Rocks has provided server bands in the past, contact Rodney Grubbs at 513-703-6338 – Rocket@AllAboutPickleball.com.

Logo Use:

- 1) The USSP logo will be provided and may be used for promotions.
- 2) Additionally, the USSP Circuit Event Logo will be used for tournaments.

Play format for Events/Brackets:

- 1) USSP tournaments will be developed as age/skill tournaments to the extent that follows:
 - a. All brackets must have a minimum of 2 teams.
 - b. Teams -2,3 double RR, 4,5, or 6 Round Robin, 6 or more – pool play with single elimination brackets for places 1st-4th. Six teams can be either round robin or pool play as chosen by the tournament director.
 - c. USSP uses 5 year age groups from 50-80 and skill levels from 3.0-4.5+.
 - d. Ages are best combined in 10 year increments if/when necessary, with a goal to have 50's, 60's, 70s and 80s playing each other as necessary.
 - e. Skills are combined within age groups with 3.0-3.5 in a group and 4.0+ in a group only when necessary to complete a bracket.
 - f. The goal is to combine as few age/skill groups as possible and to have only round robin and pool play/single elimination brackets with NO double elimination brackets. This allows players more play for their money.
 - g. When age/skills are combined, multiple medals will be awarded for each age/skill group.
 - h. Players that do not want to be combined with a higher skill group may always choose to play down in age to remain in their skill group.
 - i. Players that want to remain in their age group may always choose to play up in skill to remain in an age group.
 - j. Event groupings will be listed for player viewing prior to bracket development.
 - k. If a player's event, age/skill does not have three teams, a player may choose to receive a refund prior to the registration closing day. A \$15 processing fee will apply to all refunds. Refunds must be requested in writing (text, email, or a letter) by the registrant.
 - l. Any 50+ age player may play in a USSP Circuit Event, but, **only members are eligible for the point/prize reward system.**

INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENT GUIDELINES

- 1) International tournaments qualify to be a SSIPA International Circuit Event by offering competition for 50+ age groups.
- 2) International tournaments are encouraged to follow the SSIPA Planning Tool and Guidelines/Procedures to the maximum extent possible.
- 3) Tournaments will be identified as: SSIPA INTERNATIONAL EVENTS.
- 4) There are no fees or SSIPA player fees charged to an International tournament for being a SSIPA International Circuit Event.
- 5) Players in international tournaments that are SSIPA members (annual or higher) will receive points for medaling in these competitions.

6) The SSIPA board will make final determination regarding international tournaments.