



## EXCITING NEW CHANGES IN 2022 FOR SSIPA

The end of this year marks the 5<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of [SSIPA](#). Our association was founded for the purpose of serving the competitive needs of the senior pickleball community. Playing others in our age group with similar skill levels has made our competition format popular for seniors across the country.

As the end of 2021 nears, the sport of pickleball is seeing a number of changes that are having a direct impact on the senior pickleball community. The cost of tournament entry fees is going up with little change in the quality of service. Tournament management fee costs are increasing at the same time. Association fees have increased dramatically as well. Many seniors have suffered the effects of the current rating system where their ratings have declined steadily by being put in brackets with younger players of similar skill levels.

Your SSIPA Board has decided it is time to make some exciting new changes for 2022 and the future of senior pickleball. In the new year, [SSIPA](#), a non-profit corporation will begin operating across our nation as **US Senior Pickleball (USSP)**. [SSIPA](#) will continue to be the international part of the corporation. These changes will bring a number of benefits to our growing membership. Every [SSIPA](#) member will have dual membership with *no additional cost* in both US Senior Pickleball and [Super Senior International Pickleball Association](#)

## Here are some of the key benefits/changes for 2022:

- Anyone over 50 will be able to play in a USSP tournament.
- Membership in USSP will be needed to participate in the points system and to receive a tournament registration discount.
- Annual membership fee and renewals will remain the same at \$20.
- Use a rating system designed for senior play that only uses senior matches.
- Use a management system that works for tournaments/leagues/ladders.
- Simple, easy to use registration and payment process.
- Use USSP Zones of play for tournaments and Zone Championships.
- Provide National Championship and Open Championship tournaments.
- Continue the points/reward system with over \$20,000 in prizes.

A new **website** is being developed and will use both [USSENIORPICKLEBALL.org](http://USSENIORPICKLEBALL.org) and [USSENIORPICKLEBALL.com](http://USSENIORPICKLEBALL.com) for access. Membership will be notified when the website will become available. A number of sections are under revision at this time. [SSIPA-PB.com](http://SSIPA-PB.com) and [SSIPA-PB.org](http://SSIPA-PB.org) will continue in use until February 2022. Members will still be able to access the points system and tournament listings for registration and results. Membership registration will continue as well.

**Tournaments** will be listed exclusively in [pickleballbrackets.com](http://pickleballbrackets.com) software over the next six months as the 2022 schedule is developed. There will be three zones for competition with 10+ tournaments listed in each zone. USSP will have zone directors for the East, Central, and West zones. In 2022, there will be two national level tournaments – US Senior Open and US Senior Nationals. More information about these special events will be coming in the next few months.

Below are three very important items: 1) A FAQ's sheet that will be expanded. Send questions to [ussphelp@gmail.com](mailto:ussphelp@gmail.com). 2) Learn how to access and use the [pickleballbrackets.com](http://pickleballbrackets.com) management software, create a **profile** and enter your **ratings** information. 3) The geographic listing of the three zones for tournaments in the United States and the contact person for each zone.

# US Senior Pickleball/SSIPA – FAQ's



## **What is US Senior Pickleball?**

USSP is a division of SSIPA for players living in the United States.

## **What will happen to SSIPA?**

SSIPA will continue, but, as the international division of the non-profit corporation.

## **Will I now need a membership in US Senior Pickleball and SSIPA?**

No, all current SSIPA members will automatically become members of both USSP and SSIPA.

## **Will other association memberships be required to play in USSP tournaments?**

No, only membership in USSP will be required.

## **Will USSP sanction tournaments?**

USSP will approve quality tournaments to be listed on the website and be included as a circuit event. No other sanctioning process will be followed.

## **What software system will be used for tournaments?**

PickleballBrackets.com will be used for circuit events. This software is being used successfully in the US, Canada and Australia.

## **How will this system affect my ratings as a player?**

PickleballBrackets.com has a seamless built-in ratings system that has been customized for senior players. This system has been tested and verified. USSP will have the ability to adjust this rating system to meet the needs of our members.

## **Will membership costs increase for USSP members in 2022?**

Membership cost will remain at \$20 per year and multiple year membership options will remain the same for 2022.

### **When will USSP come into existence?**

Changes will take place on 1/1/2022.

### **How will the website be affected?**

The new website address will be USSeniorPickleball.com or .org. The new site will have a link from SSIPA-PB.org and will be available later this year.

### **How will US Senior Pickleball/SSIPPA operations be affected by these changes?**

This non-profit association will continue to run in a fully transparent manner with all financial records posted on the website and open board elections voted on by the membership.

### **Why USSP?**

Seniors have been the bedrock and foundation of pickleball since the start of pickleball's unprecedented growth. Senior players deserve the respect and service that can only be given to them through an organization like US Senior Pickleball. USSP is being built by seniors for seniors.

Come join the senior movement today for a better tournament experience.

**Please share this document with as many groups, clubs, associations, pickleball websites as possible to help create a brighter future for all the deserving senior pickleball players.**





# US Senior Pickleball 2022 Tournament Structure and Points System



## Tournament Structure

- **Three Zones** - West, Central & East
- **Eight+ circuit tournaments per zone** (24+ total circuit tournaments in 2022)
- **Zone Championships** – 1 or 2 per zone, such as East, West and Central Zone Championships or a North and South Championships for each zone (3 or 6 additional tournaments)
- **National Level Tournaments** – US Senior Open, US Senior Nationals, these would be outdoor and could also add an Open and Nationals indoor as well

## Tournament Summary Totals

24+ circuit, 3 zone, 2 national – 29+

24+ circuit, 6 zone, 4 national - 34+

## Points System

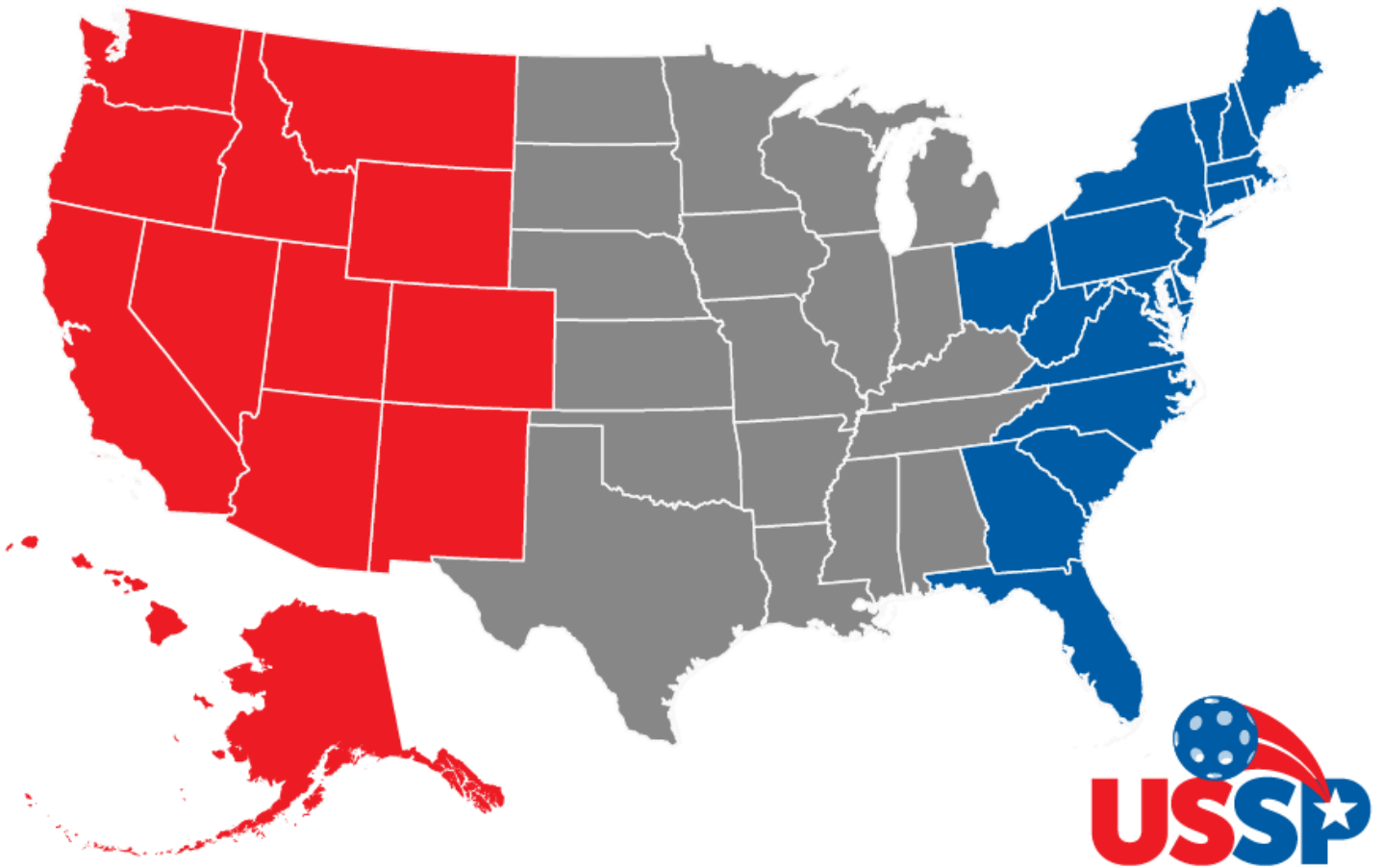
	Circuit Tournaments	Zone Championships	National Level
Gold	500	1000	1500
Silver	300	650	1000
Bronze	200	350	500
4 <sup>th</sup>	100	200	300

Fourth place points could be optional.

This system esteems players with large number of points and sounds good compared to our current small point numbers. If our membership grows rapidly, then we should consider what prizes might be most appropriate.

# US SENIOR PICKLEBALL ZONE MAP

## WEST CENTRAL EAST



- Alaska
- Arizona
- California
- Colorado
- Hawaii
- Idaho
- Montana
- Nevada
- New Mexico
- Oregon
- Utah
- Washington
- Wyoming

- Alabama
- Arkansas
- Illinois
- Indiana
- Iowa
- Kansas
- Kentucky
- Louisiana
- Michigan
- Minnesota
- Mississippi
- Missouri
- Nebraska
- North Dakota
- Oklahoma
- South Dakota
- Tennessee
- Texas
- Wisconsin

- Connecticut
- Delaware
- Florida
- Georgia
- Maine
- Maryland
- Massachusetts
- New Jersey
- New York
- New Hampshire
- North Carolina
- Ohio
- Pennsylvania
- Rhode Island
- South Carolina
- Vermont
- Virginia
- Washington D.C.
- West Virginia

# SSIPA MEMBER INSTRUCTIONS ON SETTING UP A PLAYER PROFILE IN PICKLEBALLBRACKETS.COM AND HOW TO TRANSFER UTPR PLAYER RATINGS FROM USAP.ORG TO PICKLEBALLBRACKETS.COM (PB.COM)



1. Log on to [usapickleball.org](http://usapickleball.org).
2. Select “Login” at top right of page.
3. Select “Individual Member.”
4. Type in your username and password.
5. “My Member Information” will appear.
6. You can either print out this page or write down the following info:  
Your USAP Member number and your 4 digit UTPR ratings...examples  
Doubles -- 3.938; Mixed -- 4.152; and Singles -- 4.158.
7. Exit [usapickleball.org](http://usapickleball.org).

**If this is the first time you have accessed [pickleballbrackets.com](http://pickleballbrackets.com), please follow these instructions. If you already have an account at [picklebrackets.com](http://picklebrackets.com), then skip to number 14.**

8. Go to [pickleballbrackets.com](http://pickleballbrackets.com) to setup your player profile.
9. Click “Sign up” at top right of screen.
10. You will then type in your name, email address and a password of your choosing.
11. If your password is accepted, then hit “Getting Started.” You will receive a message to access your email for a message from [pickleballbrackets.com](http://pickleballbrackets.com).
12. You will then open that email and click “Verify.” If you logged out of [pickleballbrackets.com](http://pickleballbrackets.com) to read your email, then access [pickleballbrackets.com](http://pickleballbrackets.com) and login. You will see your first name in upper right hand corner, cursor over that to select “My Profile.”
13. If you stayed in [pickleballbrackets.com](http://pickleballbrackets.com) and used another device (phone/tablet) to verify your account, then hit “Continue” to setup the rest of your profile.
14. After you complete your general contact info, etc., in your profile, then page down to section 5 **Association Numbers**. It is here that you will enter your 4 digit UTPR ratings.
15. Don’t forget to enter your USAPickleball number in the USAPickleball field.

16. [Pickleballbrackets.com](http://Pickleballbrackets.com) also has a “skinny singles” ratings field if you want to enter a rating there.
17. After you enter your digit ratings, then click Save Profile at top left of screen.

### **General information regarding your ratings in pickleballbrackets.com:**

- You have the opportunity to set your rating. Once you play in a USSeniorPickleball tournament using these ratings, then the algorithm will adjust your rating up/down based on match results.
- Once your rating is adjusted, etc., after the first tournament, you will not have the ability to adjust your rating manually.
- Keep in mind that USSP controls this ratings system and process. USSP will not be constrained to make changes by going thru USAP. If the formula needs adjusting, USSP can do that.
- One advantage of the [pickleballbrackets.com](http://pickleballbrackets.com) algorithm is that it adjusts for the score differential in matches.
- You can merely insert the 4 digit ratings as they are now in USAP or you can adjust them up.
- The max you can adjust up per each of three rating types is to the next “skill level.”
- For example if you are at 4.125 in doubles, you could go to 4.500.
- You can adjust anywhere in between in the upward direction.
- For example you can go from 4.125 to 4.320.
- You should not downgrade any rating for example, 3.511 to 3.114. This is because of the tendency of some players to “sand bag” and play at a lower skill level in tournaments.
- You are on the “honor system” with regard to inputting your 4 digit ratings. USSP will not “police” or check these ratings.