



Guideline for Changing Group Levels

If a player experiences meaningful improvement or decline in their skills, they both can and should move to a level corresponding to their present abilities. When a player requests to change levels their Round Robin Captains (RRCs) are the person's best positioned to determine if a move is appropriate for all concerned. To that end, although no system is perfect in assessing a member's skill level, the club has developed a system that provides some objective criteria beyond simply relying on the opinion of the player or others in his/her circle.

MOVING UP:

When a player believes they are capable (better short game, greater consistency, more strategic play) of playing at a higher level they need to communicate their wishes to their RRCs. The player will then be given a score sheet to track their next 24 round robin games. This process will provide an objective means of measuring both skill and competitiveness of the player within his/her current group. The RRCs will review the score sheet upon completion and then inform the player of their collective recommendation. Generally, if the player has won approximately 70% of their recorded games, their request to change levels will be approved. In that event, the current RRCs need to inform the RRCs of the group the player will be moving to and must also email silveridgepickleball@gmail.com indicating a change in the player's rating is appropriate. The SignUpGenius (SUG) administrator will make the change as expeditiously as possible and notify the player via email once completed.

Once the player has moved up, they will have two sessions of round-robin play to acclimate themselves after which they will again be tasked with tracking the results of their next 24 games. This step provides the RRCs at the new level with objective criteria to help assess the new player's degree of skill and competitiveness at the higher level. Generally, if the player wins approximately 30% or more of their games, they should remain with the new group. If not, they should rejoin their original group and continue honing their skills required to be competitive at the next level. In that event, the RRCs need to take the steps required to reverse the change, i.e. notify the player's original RRCs and send an email to silveridgepickleball@gmail.com.

Note: RRCs at all levels have discretion to approve a move without first having a player track their scores. Here are but two scenarios: (1) a player moved down due to injury, unfitness or inactivity but has regained their prior abilities; or (2) an individual new to the sport quickly exhibits the athleticism and strategic play that merits a transfer to a higher level. Use of such discretion without tracking scores shall, however, be limited to obvious cases.

MOVING DOWN:

Eventually, every player experiences a temporary or permanent loss of agility or consistency due to age, injury, or inactivity. If a player recognizes a change is in everyone's best interests and requests a move, the process is straightforward. Generally, completion of a score sheet is not necessary. The player's current RRCs should follow the same steps used to facilitate an upward move.

In the event a player is struggling to remain competitive, but he/she does not appear to recognize that fact the situation is a bit more delicate. It is recommended all the RRCs meet with the player to discuss the situation. If the player believes their skills still match the level of the other players at his/her level, then it is recommended they track their next 24 games. Afterwards, the RRCs and player should again meet to review the results and discuss whether no change is called for, additional instruction and practice would be beneficial, or a move down a level would be best for the player and the other competitors in the player's present group.