

# NANAIMO PICKLEBALL CLUB RATINGS POLICY

The Nanaimo Pickleball Club (NPC) believes that ratings provide a means to compare the skill levels of our members. Ratings may be used to determine eligibility for entry to tournaments or Club sessions where there are separate sessions or courts for different skill levels. To this end the Club has adopted the following policy for members of the NPC regarding ratings.

## ***DUPR (Dynamic Universal Pickleball Rating) vs. Club Ratings:***

While the possession of a DUPR account is a requirement of new members in the NPC, it is not a requirement for renewing members. It is however highly recommended that all members create a DUPR account even if they never plan to play in tournaments or DUPR-related events. As noted below, DUPR is a primary way for players to increase their Club Rating, but recreational players who do not wish to use DUPR actively can simply leave their profile unrated. There is no need to enter scores, and this does not affect day-to-day play.

DUPR is a 3<sup>rd</sup> party rating system based on a player's own performance that is totally independent of the Nanaimo Pickleball Club. The NPC has no control over – or ability to change – DUPR ratings. If a member chooses to play in DUPR matches, the results of those games will be entered into the DUPR system.

Members are assigned a Club Rating in addition to whatever DUPR rating they might already, or subsequently, possess. Club Ratings are a means of determining play eligibility in sessions that do not require a specific DUPR rating, or for members who choose not to engage in DUPR matches and allow their DUPR rating to remain at “Not Rated” (NR). Existing or assigned Club Ratings will not be considered for adjustment (either up or down) unless requested in writing by the member – or at the discretion of the Rating Committee (see below) if the member’s play performance is not considered consistent with their Club Rating.

The Club offers sessions that provide DUPR and/or non-DUPR play opportunities. Club Ratings will be used to determine eligibility to enter non-DUPR matches; existing DUPR values at the time of enrollment (or Club Rating if the player has a NR DUPR rating) will be used for determining eligibility to enter matches where the member wishes to partake in DUPR matches. Court Coordinators of sessions where DUPR matches are offered will try – wherever possible – to arrange a single Round Robin play session where matches will consist of players that are within a 0.5 DUPR rating of each other.

DUPR matches can also occur on a game-by-game basis at any play session hosted by the Club – or outside of Club play as outlined by DUPR in their policies – as long as it is a unanimous decision of all players that is clearly articulated prior to the beginning of the match.

Members with a NR DUPR rating can enroll in a DUPR session at their current Club Rating, but thereafter they will only be allowed entry to DUPR sessions depending on their DUPR rating (regardless of their current Reliability score) at the time of enrollment in the session.

## ***Assignment of Club Ratings:***

Existing members who obtained a Club Rating prior to the adoption of this Policy will retain their existing Rating (subject to possible review as noted in the “Discretion” section below). The following pertains to the assignment of Club Ratings to new members who will be asked to self-rate as part of the membership application process:

- Relatively new-to-the-sport players that have had limited exposure to play and/or self-rate at 2.5 will be assigned a Club Rating of 2.5.
- Players that come to the Club with a DUPR rating at least 0.1 above one of our Club Rating values, and a Reliability score of  $\geq 80\%$ , will be assigned the 'rounded down' version of that rating (e.g. DUPR Rating = 3.600 to 4.099 = Club Rating of 3.5).
- Players that come to the Club with experience of play elsewhere but without a DUPR rating (or with a DUPR rating with less than 80% reliability) and self-rate at 3.0 or above will be assigned a 'Conditional' Club Rating. These members will be informed of the Conditional nature of their Club Rating (which may be determined after NPC consultation with other organizations in which the member played) and they will need to justify this rating by one of the following means within 6 months of being assigned a Conditional Rating:
  - a.) achieving a DUPR rating (with a Reliability score of  $\geq 80\%$ ) that is at least 0.1 above their self-rating;
  - b.) being assessed by a qualified rating instructor or assessor; or
  - c.) medaling (placing 1st, 2nd or 3rd) in tournaments at the Club Rating level they are requesting to achieve in 2 or more sanctioned or non-sanctioned tournaments (excluding tournaments like Mexican Madness, 90-minute tournaments or other fun events) over the most recent 5-year period.

### ***Adjustments of Club Ratings:***

If a member wishes to have their Club Rating *decreased*, they need to request this reassignment in writing to the Rating Committee who will review the available information before making a decision.

If a member wishes their Club Rating to be *increased*, they need to request this reassignment in writing to the Rating Committee. Methods to justify increasing a member's Club Rating include:

- a.) achieving a DUPR rating (with a Reliability score that is  $\geq 80\%$ ) that is at least 0.1 point greater than the Club rating the member is requesting to achieve;
- b.) being assessed by a qualified rating instructor or assessor;
- c.) medaling (placing 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup>) in tournaments at the Club Rating level they are requesting to achieve in 2 or more sanctioned or non-sanctioned tournaments (excluding tournaments like Mexican Madness, 90-minute tournaments or other fun events) over the most recent 5-year period; or
- d.) if a member does not have an existing DUPR rating (i.e. Not Rated or "NR" in their DUPR profile), being assessed by a DUPR Coach who will assign a DUPR rating. The Club's Rating Committee will subsequently assign the appropriate Club Rating based on this assessment.

### ***Discretion in the assignment of Club Ratings:***

This Rating Policy is recognized to be a 'work-in-progress' and all possible scenarios that might arise from the Club adopting DUPR as a primary rating system cannot be envisioned. The NPC Executive does not have the ability to adjust a members' DUPR Rating as this is a 3<sup>rd</sup> party designation. However, where extenuating circumstances might exist, and at the discretion of the Rating Committee, a Member's Club Rating may be adjusted outside of the conditions noted above after review of all available information. Specific instances where this might occur could include – but are not limited to – the following:

- a.) In tournament play, a member should register at their DUPR or Club rating or higher but not at a lower level. If the Executive becomes aware that a member is playing in tournaments at a lower level than their Club Rating, then the Executive has the right to adjust that member's Club Rating to the level at which the member entered the tournament. As an example, if you have a Club Rating of 4.0 but play in a tournament in a 3.5 event, the Executive may choose to modify your Club rating to 3.5.
  - b.) The Club realizes that over time a member's performance may drop for various reasons. If it comes to the Club's attention that a member is performing below their existing Club Rating, the Executive has the option to adjust the member's rating (after discussion with said member) to a value that more accurately reflects their actual performance level.
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### ***Revisions to this Policy:***

*June 18/22 – Revised to reflect review of Pickleball brackets ratings to be done after the completion of each ladder session or every 8 weeks whichever is earlier.*

*Aug. 9/22 – Revised to provide clarification where needed.*

*Apr. 24/23 – Revised to include Pickleball Brackets tournament rating as a means to improve a members Club rating.*

*Aug. 1/'23 – Revised to include rating assessments by Lee MacDonald up to and including 3.5.*

*Feb. 19/24 – Added section to clarify that new members will be monitored to evaluate their self-assessed rating. Revised criteria for tournaments to be 2 medals over 5 years from 3 medals over 3 years.*

*Oct. 2/25 – Revised to include DUPR as a primary method of determining members' Club Ratings.*

*Oct. 30/'25 – Revised to clarify Conditional Ratings and remove having a DUPR account by PCO and NPC as a requirement.*