

## IPTPA rating test for a CTPA Club Rating

### Why did the IPTPA create a new national rating system?

IPTPA initiated an international rating program in 2015 with the goal to provide a consistent rating across the world. Every player rated by an IPTPA certified rating specialist (CRS) will have the same result regardless of what country the player resides in or has been tested. This consistent and reliable result will be accomplished not only because of the specificity of the Rating System but because of its execution. Rating sessions will be the same worldwide. Assuring players that a “3.5 IPTPA rated player” on the east coast, will be equivalent to a “3.5 rated player” on the west coast. A 3.5 rated player in Europe will be the same as a 3.5 rated player in Asia or America. Most important being independent allows CRS to rate a player without subjectivity & bias. If you can preform the skills as listed on IPTPA web site associated with that level and test accordingly, you will be issued that level rating.

### Who designed the IPTPA rating test?

The IPTPA Rating System was developed through a committee in 2015-16 by Seymour Rifkind, Lisa Palcic, Stephanie Lane, Marcin Rozpedski with the help of subcommittees of eight other top professionals and teaching professional all with 5.0 (and above ratings) and many DECADES of pickleball experience. Many have won several National championships for many years in the professional circuit. There has been a couple of refinement to the testing procedures and they continue to make improvements.

### .What is the benefits of the IPTPA test?

**Non-bias:** The CRS are trained how to properly preform the test. All CRS do not know you and are independent in their decision to pass/fail anyone. There is no perceived favoritism. CRS who gives lessons to a student or knows them are discouraged to test that person for a rating.

**Objective:** IPTPA provides an objective unbiased CRS trained by IPTPA, who can evaluate players without the pressure to pass or fail as compared to a club which has raters within their own community.

Eliminate as much of the subjectivity from the test as humanly possible by creating a 3 part protocol that is repeatable by any CRS in the world. In several tests when we put several experienced CRS's on the court evaluating a rating session the scores are within 3% of each other. That is very consistent and provides for a reliable rating whether the test is in CA, FL or NY or China for that matter.

**Opportunity:** It allows for our members to decide if they want to be tested for the next level when they feel they are ready to be tested.

**Improve your skills:** To provide a clear understanding of what is required at each skill level to develop the basic fundamentals of pickleball which are required to make steady improvement for those interested in improving their game. Prior to IPTPA there was no agreement on even the basic fundamentals or stroke progressions. The IPTPA rating system is a direct reflection of their teaching system. So first and foremost as a professional organization educating the pickleball community was imperative.

### **What is the pass/fail rate of the IPTPA test?**

Each player that goes through the rating system, pass or fail should have a better understanding of what their strengths and weaknesses are and a clearer path to self improvement. That is the main purpose of the test. That said, in early 2016/17, that pass rate was 60%. Later as people developed their skills and practice the skills associated with the test the current pass rate is 85%. In training facilities where players developed their skills following the IPTPA teaching procedures, the rate is over 98%.

### **How many clubs use IPTPA?**

In our evaluation of 12 large PB Clubs all of them used/accepted IPTPA ratings for their club ratings (The Villages with a membership of 6000+ does a skill-based 90 minute evaluation very similar to the IPTPA using several of their own 5.0/4.5 players.) There are nearly 40 clubs/training facilities with a reach of 25,000 pickleball players who have access to IPTPA to determine their rating and they are expanding every day. Most of these clubs started with internal rating systems as CTPA and abandon them due to conflicts. Bend (OR) Pickleball Club one of the oldest clubs in the nation tried 8 different internal rating approaches before they finally settled on the IPTPA 2 years ago and today have almost no conflicts associated with ratings and broke 800 members.

### **How did a member pass who obviously are not the skill level that I feel they should be?**

Everyone who did pass April 13-14 did meet to the standards laid out to the IPTPA testing requirements. Seven members made it by the skin of their teeth. Many feel that our standards for a level are about ¼ to ½ of a rating level higher than what is consider standard in the pickleball community, which also could reflect to our higher pass rates. Everyone, including the President of the IPTPA will tell you that this is not a perfect system, one does not exist. But it is the seen by many top professional as the best system that is available and again accepted in most of the larger PB club.

### **Does the CRS help a person to pass and is this a money making operation?**

CRS are professionals who want to respect the testing procedures as they were designed and be non-bias. Part of that is providing the proper feed to the student and making fair line calls as best as possible. When a CRS feels a feed is not correct or if the line call was in question, they will provide additional feed to compensate. This is part of the process. The CRS gets about \$100 for the two hour test, which translates to \$50/hour, in which many of them could get that or more by giving private lessons nearby their home. The CRS that came here, are 5.0 tournament players, traveled 9 hours by car, did testing/set up for over two days for 15 hours, and had to kill time at a hotel in between. If you factor all those extra hours, they probably made more like \$20/hour. Our agreement was to get the CRS was that we would cover expenses, balls & courts. Most other CRS are responsible to pay those costs when they test locally. In the end many professional who earned their CRS certificate find it is not financially worth to do testing. Many CRS who are doing the testing, do it because they believe in the mission of the IPTPA and their desire to better pickleball as a whole.

### **Where is CTPA going from here with IPTPA testing?**

CTPA after much debate has decided to continue with the IPTPA testing, along with the C&C for the remainder of the year. At year end and with some experience under our belts, we will allow the membership to decide what type of rating system that we want to use for 2020 including bring an internal rating committee, if that is supported.

### **When will the next IPTPA testing be done?**

# CTPA UPDATE

## IPTPA Testing Opportunities

(Testing for levels of 3.0, 3.5 & 4.0 only)

May 12, 2019

This is an update regarding IPTPA testing opportunities here in Cranberry and in Lancaster PA. Because of the limited IPTPA CRS in the area (which we have another program to resolve this issue) we are presenting two different opportunities to arrange testing for an IPTPA rating here in Cranberry Twp (July 20-21) and also several dates near Lancaster, PA (about a 3hr, 45 minute

drive one way). Specific rating testing opportunities for 4.5 level will be available in the near future in another email.

### **Testing at Cranberry Township** July 20 & 21

You can sign up for testing immediately using Court Reserve and going to either Saturday July 20 or Sunday July 21 and sign up for the time slot for the rating you are interested in. You can only test for one level above your current rating. **If all slots are filled or there is none on the day you want, please waitlist yourself.** We will do our best to try to test everyone who signs up. If there are enough people waitlisted, we may bring in a second IPTPA CRS, but as of now we are planning just bringing one. Please note we hold the rights to adjusted timeslots to accommodate as many people as possible.

The cost to sign up to be tested at 3.0 or 3.5 is \$55 and to be tested at 4.0 is \$65. \$15 will go to a three year membership to the IPTPA and if you every go for another IPTPA rating in that 3 year timeframe you will not need to pay this cost again. The rest of the money is to pay the testing fee and the expense of the CRS.

There will be no cancellation allowed or credit issue starting July 5 for IPTPA testing, though you will have your 3-year IPTPA membership and will not have to pay that fee the next time you test within 3 years. If you sign up and later cancel, before July 5<sup>th</sup>, you will be issue a full credit to your account, not your credit card. You cannot sign up for Cranberry testing and later “have the money transferred for Lancaster testing”. There are separate procedures for each.

### **Testing in Lancaster area**

Because we could not set up a weekend earlier in Cranberry there is an option to go out to Lancaster with a group of people who also want tested for the same level. The key here is you need to go out with 2 to 3 other people to be tested together. So if you wanted to be tested for 3.0 for example, find three other people who want tested also the four of you could drive out together and be tested. Chris Riportella our state IPTPA CRS has made himself available on certain days & times to meet you at a pickleball facility in his area and will test all four of you together. If you can only get two others, Chris may find a filler locally so the three of you can test. For those testing for 4.0, Chris will find a 4.0 control locally. You can make a one day trip or plan to stay overnight. But you need first make arrangement directly with Chris.

These are the days Chris is available at certain hours during the day.

May 18 - All Day	June 11 - 10AM-2PM
May 19 - All Day	June 12 - 10AM-2PM
May 20 - 10AM - 2PM	June 13 - 10AM-2PM
	June 22 - All Day
	June 23 - All Day

May 21 - 10AM - 2PM

May 22 - 10AM - 2PM

If you are planning to this, here are the following guidelines

1. Find three other people being interested in testing for 3.0 & 3.5. You will need two others to test for 4.0. If you have less than this you can check with Chris to see if he can find a filler person.
2. Confirm the day & time with Chris via email. [rip131313@gmail.com](mailto:rip131313@gmail.com)
3. Once confirmed, you must within 48 hours go to the IPTPA web site and sign up for your individual membership for \$15 which is good for 3 years. Since CTPA is a member of the IPTPA, you can get your individual membership for \$15 instead of the normal \$25 rate. You will get email confirmation from IPTPA and will need to forward a copy of your notification to Chris, who will confirm the receipt of everyone. Note: You will not be able to be rated if you do not have your IPTPA membership. If you already have a IPTPA membership you do not have to pay it again but need to confirm with Chris by email so he can look up your membership.
4. Once confirmed, you need to send the testing fee (of all four players being tested) to Chris within 48 hours to reserve your slot. The testing fee will be \$25/person to test for a 3.0 or 3.5 and \$33/person to test for a 4.0. Chris will confirm the methods for payments. Your reservation slot will not be reserved permanently unless he receives the payment of all the people being tested in your time slot. Chris will return any fee cancelled within 7 days of the testing day of the whole group. So if only one of your group member cancels, you must all get refunds or find another person to fill that person's spot, or see if Chris can find a "filler" person locally to allow for the other people to still be tested. Any cancellations within 7 days is not refundable or cannot be credited for a future test.
5. The driving trip to the facility is about 3 hours and 45 minutes one way and testing is about 2 hours long. Your group could do the trip in one day or if you want you can stay over night at a local hotel.
6. Again, Chris is not accepting individual testing, you must come to him with a group ready to all be tested together. You can contact and schedule with Chris by email at [rip131313@gmail.com](mailto:rip131313@gmail.com). Chris is an independent IPTPA rater who must maintain his impartiality to properly rate you. Please respect that impartiality and understand he is there solely to evaluate you fairly to the IPTPA method of the test.
7. If you successfully pass you must ask Chris to email the test results to [brucemazzoni@zoominternet.net](mailto:brucemazzoni@zoominternet.net) to be approved at that club level at CTPA.

If you have any questions, please contact Bruce at [brucemazzoni@zoominternet.net](mailto:brucemazzoni@zoominternet.net) .