THE PLAYERS CHARITY TOURNAMENT at STONECREST

The 2015 Players Charity Pickleball Tournament will be held at Stonecrest, a gated, active adult community, located at 11050 SE 176th Place Rd, Summerfield, FL 34491. The event is planned over 3 days, March 6, 7 and 8, 2015. This tournament will be a senior skills tournament, doubles only and registrations are limited to 250 entrants.

The Stonecrest Pickleball Club will host and manage this tournament. The 2015 tournament is planned to improve players experiences based on the feedback received from last year’s Players Tournament at Stonecrest. We received rave reviews on the hillside viewing area which is shaded by mature Florida Oak trees from early afternoon through the evening. The community offers eight dedicated and lighted pickleball courts. In addition six more pickleball courts will be available for play on the hilltop tennis courts. While all courts have lights available, we plan to finish all play during daylight hours.

This year all funds from registration fees remaining after tournament expenses will be donated to Hospice of Marion County. The club is proud to make this change and we hope everyone participating will enjoy the feeling of contributing a little extra for this wonderful cause.

Skill & Age Events

There are five skill levels, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5 and 5.0. Your USAPA skill level rating will be used. Players without a USAPA designated rating must indicate their skill level based on the International Federation of Pickleball (IFP) SKILL RATING DESCRIPTIONS. The IFP skill rating descriptions can be found at http://ipickleball.org/ratings/IFP_ratings_descriptions.html

Each skill level will have four age brackets, 50-59, 60-64, 65-69 and 70+. Teams will compete in the bracket of the highest partner’s skill level and the youngest of the partners’ ages. We will likely have to combine age and/or skill brackets to try and give everyone ample matches to play. We will do our best to keep the competition levels balanced and fair. We feel this is in the best interest of all players. If we do combine some brackets, we will inform everyone via email id that is provided on the registration form.

Preliminary Schedule

The 2015 tournament is planned over three days, Friday, March 6th, Saturday March 7th and Friday, March 8th. The following preliminary schedule is subject to change and will be confirmed after registration closes using the email address you supply on your registration. Start times beginning at 8:00am will be emailed once we finalize all events after registration closes.

Friday - all 65-69, and 70+ Men’s and Women’s Doubles
Saturday – all 50-59, 60-64 Men’s & Women’s Doubles, and possibly some 65-69 and 70+ Mixed Doubles
Sunday – all remaining Mixed Doubles

Email ID’s, provided on the registration form, will be used to keep everyone informed.
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Match Definitions
This is a double elimination tournament. All Top Bracket matches will be best 2 out of 3 games to 11 points while winning by two. Third games will have players switch when the first team reaches six points. Bottom Bracket matches will be one game to 15 points, win by two, and switch when the first team reaches eight points.

While we hope we can avoid any brackets with less than 5 teams, if there are any, we will play a round robin format. This will be one game to 15 points, win by one, and switch when the first team reaches eight points. The round robin results will determine the seeding based on each team’s total points won. The results will be used to seed a single elimination bracket with each match in that bracket a best 2 out of 3 games to 11 points, win by two and if a third game is needed the teams switch at six points. There will not be a bottom (losers) bracket in round robin brackets.

Referees
We will not have referees for non-medal matches. We decided to do this in order to remove the pressure on players to referee during the tournament. We hope this makes for a more enjoyable event for all participants. Medal matches will have referees.

A referee official will be in the area and available to players in the event of a rules question or dispute. Players may request a referee and we will try to provide one if one is available. The Tournament Director will be available for any appeals. The Tournament Director’s ruling will stand as final. All medal matches will have an assigned referee on the court who will perform duties per the USAPA guidelines.

Directions to Stonecrest
Set your GPS / Google Maps to address: 11050 SE 176 Place Rd, Summerfield, FL 34491. For those familiar with the area, we are located just north of The Villages on Highway 27/441. We are about one mile south of Highway 42 on the east side of the highway. Once entering the main gates to the community, follow parking signs as posted. The pickleball courts are located ¼ mile from the entrance on the right side of the street. Do NOT park on the street, follow signs to parking.

Food & Concessions
There will be drinks and snacks available for players and spectators to purchase. Also, a full lunch will be sold between 11:30 and 2:00 each day. A viewing area adjacent to the courts will be prepared for spectators. Consider bringing a chair or even a blanket for sitting on the hillside overlooking the courts.

Bring a water container. Recycling will be encouraged, bottled water will be limited. Water and a sports drink for refilling will be abundant. Players will receive a bottle of water in the player bags at registration. Please keep this bottle for refilling.

Registration
We will cut off registrations at 250 players. Registration is open December 1, 2014 and must be mailed and postmarked before February 21, 2015. The registration form and waiver must be mailed with a $30 check payable to the Stonecrest Pickleball Club. No refunds after February 21, 2015.

Registration forms are available on the USAPA.org website or by emailing: jim@cetlinski.net or by calling Jim at: (352) 233-9690.