



2018 NORRIS INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT (NIT)

Hosted by the Sun Lakes Pickleball Club Cottonwood (SLPCC)

TOURNAMENT RULES:

1. Any person who resides in any Sun Lakes Community including Sun Lakes Country Club, Cottonwood Palo Verde Country Club, Ironwood Country Club and Oakwood Country Club as well as the Renaissance, may apply to play in the NIT subject to the restriction stated in Rule 2 below.
2. The SLPCC Board of Directors has the sole and absolute right to disqualify or ban any person or team from playing in the NIT.
3. Entry Forms will be completed and submitted electronically via the club website by each team member in separate registrations. The registration fees shall be paid electronically simultaneously with the registration form not later than February 20th. The Tournament Waiver Form shall be electronically acknowledged by each registrant and is to be submitted with the Entry Form. Entry Forms must be completed in their entirety for successful registration.
4. The NIT shall be played only at the Cottonwood Pickleball courts.
5. The NIT may consist of groupings of Men's Doubles competition, Women's Doubles competition, and Mixed Doubles competition. There may be separate divisions according to skill levels including 1.5, 2.0, 2.5; 3.0; 3.5; and 4.0+ which shall include the 4.0, 4.5, and 5.0 skill levels. A minimum of 4 teams must be entered within division to qualify for play.
6. Depending upon the number of teams in each Division either a Round Robin format or a Double Elimination format will be used. The Round Robin format will consist of 3 games to 11 points, or 1 game to either 15 or 21 points. Matches in the Winner's Bracket will be the best 2 out of 3 games to 11 points, winning by 2 points. Matches in the Consolation Bracket will be one game to 15 points, winning by 2 points. All matches will be a refereed event if possible. The finals match in each division may also include line judges. All matches will adhere to the tournament standards established by the USAPA.

7. The championship team and the runner-up team in each division will receive Gift Cards to Sun Lakes Home Owners Association 2 (SLHOA 2) venues in amounts determined by the SLPCC Board of Directors.
8. Teams must play at the level of the higher rated partner. A violation of this rule shall result in forfeiture of matches, expulsion from the tournament, and loss of entry fee.
9. The NIT Tournament Director or Directors (TD) shall determine the format of play, seeded or blind draw; and the schedule of play for the NIT, including days and times of play. Failure of a player or a team to appear at the scheduled day and time for play will result in forfeiture for that team, with a loss recorded against that team, and a victory recorded for the opposing team.
10. The TD has the final authority to make team placements in a seeded tournament; and the TD reserves the right to alter and to make team placements in a blind draw tournament. All decisions made by the TD related to tournament activities shall be final.
11. NIT matches will be played with Onyx Pure 2 balls, to be supplied by the SLPCC.
12. Paddles, clothing, accessories and equipment brought by the players shall be in compliance with USAPA Policies, Rules and Regulations, and shall be in compliance with SLHOA 2 Policies, Rules, and Regulations. If there is any conflict between the two standards, the Policies, Rules and Regulations of the SLHOA 2 shall prevail. Players shall be permitted to bring only water containers onto the courts while playing. All other items must be left outside of the court.
13. The conduct and behavior of the NIT players and teams shall conform to SLPCC Rules and Regulations and to SLHOA 2 Policies, Rules, and Code of Conduct. Decisions regarding compliance with Policies, Rules, Regulations and Code of Conduct by individual NIT players and teams shall be made by the TD. All such decisions made by the TD related to the conduct and behavior of NIT players and teams shall be final.
14. Teams in each Division who win the first-place prize one year will be moved up in rating the next year that they enter the Tournament as a team. The winners of the highest-level bracket are excluded from this rule. Players who win a bracket are not allowed to play with the same partner in the same bracket the following year. This policy is effective **only** for the NIT Tournament and shall have no effect on club ratings overall.