

# Playing Level Guidelines and policies



**The Pottstown Rumble** aims to ensure fair competition by maintaining consistency in division placement.

**Please choose your playing division carefully.** If you aren't sure which division you should play, please ask experienced players you may know, or contact us for help.

**Sandbagging\* will not be tolerated!**

## **Guidelines:**

We offer a variety of playing levels to ensure fair and fun competition for all. It's very important to review and understand the divisions before signing up.

**B:** Lowest competition level we offer, not much tournament experience, more of a casual player or newer to the sport. Should not have very good skills in most aspects of the game. For example, if you can handset or jump serve well, you shouldn't be in this division.

**BB:** Intermediate, some advanced skills. Common level for people who play pretty often but who maybe didn't play on an organized team or have advanced coaching. Familiar with tournament play. Hands will be called at this level and above.

**A:** Advanced and active tournament player. May have played college or club teams, with coaching/training in the past or present. Jump serves, outdoor hand setting, fast-paced attack, and ball placement are likely from both players. Is not as consistent as a AA or Open level player.

**AA:** Advanced, experienced and active tournament player, often played college or club teams, with lots of coaching/ training in the past or present. Jump serves, outdoor hand setting, fast-paced attack, and ball placement are likely from both players.

**Open:** Highest level, very experienced, active tournament player. Competes for money. Players in this division have advanced skills and consistency in all areas (swings hard, good defense, blocking, jump serves, hand setting, running plays, etc.)

**Play to the level of the best player on your team:** If you are an A player and your partner is a AA player, you should register to play in division AA.

**If you play in the Pro/Open division,** you must play in at least AA on other days, regardless of your partners' level.

**If you make it to a final in any Rumble division,** you must play at least the next highest level available in all future Rumble events: Example: If you get 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> in Men's B, you must play at least BB in all future Rumble events.

**Age guidelines for Masters and Juniors:** Players should register for the division that corresponds to their age on the day of play. *18U means 18 years and under. 50+ means 50 years or older.*

**Gendered divisions:** From now on, male to female (MTF) transgender athletes who have transitioned after (male) puberty will be prohibited from participating in Women's events at the Pottstown Rumble – in all categories – in the various disciplines/divisions.

**The Pottstown Rumble reserves the right to assess a player/team's skill level and recommend placement in a different division to ensure fair competition.** If you have any questions about the Division your team should register for, please contact us.

***\*Sandbagging is playing a level lower than your skills call for. The goal is usually for ego or an attempt to win prizes the players don't deserve. It is not tolerated at The Rumble! Every year we find sandbagging players/teams and move them to the correct division.***