



USA PICKLEBALL SKILL RATING SYSTEM

GREGORY FAMILY YMCA

1.0 to 2.0 Skill Rating

This player is just starting to play pickleball and has no other sports background. Minimal understanding of rules of the game.

2.5 Skill Rating

This player has limited experience. Can sustain a short rally with players of equal ability. Basic ability to keep score.

3.0 Skill Rating

- Forehand: Ability to hit a medium paced shot. Lacks directional intent and consistency.
- Backhand: Avoids using a backhand. Lacks directional intent and consistency.
- Serve/Return: Able to hit a medium paced shot. Lacks depth, direction, and consistency.
- Dink: Not able to consistently sustain a dink rally. Not yet developed control of this shot.
- 3rd Shot/Volley: Generally hits a medium paced ball with little direction.
- Strategy: Understands fundamentals, rules, and score keeping. Is learning court positioning.

3.5 Skill Rating

- Forehand: Improved stroke development with moderate levels of shot control.
- Backhand: Learning stroke form and developing consistency, but will avoid if possible.
- Serve/Return: Consistently gets serves. Return in play with limited ability to control depth.
- Dink: Increased consistency, with limited ability to control height/depth. Sustains medium length rallies. Starting to understand variations of pace.
- 3rd Shot: Developing the drop shot in a way to get to the net.
- Volley: Is able to volley medium paced shots thereby developing control.
- Strategy: Moves quickly toward the non-volley zone ("Kitchen") when opportunity is there. Acknowledges difference between hard game and soft game and is starting to vary own game during recreation and tournament play. Can sustain short rallies. Is learning proper court positioning. Basic knowledge of stacking and understands situations where it can be effective.

4.0 Skill Rating

- Forehand: Consistently hits with depth and control.
- Backhand: Has improved stroke mechanics and has moderate success at hitting a backhand consistently.
- Serve/Return: Places a high majority of serves/returns with varying depth and speed.
- Dink: Increased consistency with moderate ability to control height/depth. May end dink rally too soon due to lack of practice. Is beginning to understand difference between attackable balls and those that are not.
- 3rd Shot: Selectively mixing up soft shots with power shots to create an advantage with inconsistent results.
- Volley: Able to volley a variety of shots at different speeds. Is developing consistency and control. Starting to understand the block/re-set volley.
- Strategy: Aware of partner's position on the court and is able to move as a team. Demonstrates ability to change direction in an offensive manner. Demonstrates a broad knowledge of the rules of the game. Has a moderate number of unforced errors per game. Solid understanding of stacking and when and how it could be used in match play. Beginning to identify opponents weaknesses and attempts to formulate game plan to attack weaknesses. Beginning to seek out more competitive play.

4.5+ Skill Rating

This player is a top caliber player. Consistently performs at a high level and shows consistent range/depth. This player has limited number of unforced errors and communicates well.