

Rating Descriptions

1

Player is new to Pickleball, learning scoring and rules

Can hit a number of balls with a forehand

Have a hard time playing games as a rally is not sustainable yet

1.5

Players keep short rallies going but fail to return balls frequently, and occasionally miss the ball entirely.

Have played a few games and knows how to score and knows some of the basic rules of the game

Learning how to serve and be accurate

Developing a forehand

2.0

Players start to learn to judge where the ball is going and can sustain a short rally with players of equal ability

They have obvious weaknesses in their strokes, but are working on improving them

Able to keep score and are familiar with the court positions for doubles play.

Still reluctant to come to the net.

2.5

Players are able to sustain longer rallies

Many make easier volleys and use the backhand more often but need to work on stroke development

They think more about coming to the Non Volley Zone (NVZ) and start to become more aggressive in their play

Begin to use dinks and lobs, but don't fully understand when and where they should be used.

Serve becomes more reliable

Knowledge of the rules improves

Court coverage may still be weak but improves consistently.

3.0

Players are fairly consistent on the serve and serve return when hitting medium paced shots

Players demonstrate improved skills with all the basic shots strokes and placement, but lack control when trying for direction depth or power on these shots.

They are using dinks and lobs on a regular basis as part of their game

3.5

Players have achieved stroke dependability with directional control on most medium paced and some harder hit shots

They still need to develop more depth and variety with their shots but are exhibiting more aggressive net play

They anticipate their opponent's shots and are developing team work in doubles.

They start to use the "third shot drop" and mix play with dinks, soft shots, more pace, angles and lobs.

4.0

Players have dependable strokes, directional control and depth on forehand and backhand strokes

Use lobs, overheads, approach shots, and volleys with success and occasionally force errors when serving

Successful third shot drops, dinks, pace mixture, angles and lobs are now regular parts of their game.

They fully understand the rules, and can play by them

They understand the importance of "keeping the ball in play" and the effect of making errors.

Rallies may only be lost due to impatience.

Teamwork in doubles is evident

4.5

They have mastered all the skills, shot types, touch, spin, serves and can control the depth of their shots, and handle pace.

They have excellent shot anticipation, extremely accurate shot placement and regularly hit winning shots

They force opponents to make errors by keeping the ball in play

Anticipate opponents shots resulting in good court positioning

Mastered shot choices and strategies, varying these and their style of play according to the opponents strengths and weaknesses, and court position

Excellent shot mix, soft, dinks, pace, angles and lobs. All to set up offensive situations.

Unforced errors are kept to a minimum to take advantage of opponent's errors.

5.0

All the skills have been mastered all shot types, with touch spin serves all controlled to use as weapons

Excellent shot anticipation extremely accurate shot placement and winning shots

Force opponent's error by keeping the ball in play.

Mastered the dink and drop shot

Mastered the 3rd shot choice and also strategies

Use soft shots, dinks and lobs to set up offensive situations

Mastered the strategies and can vary them and their style of play to compete.

Dependable in stressful situations as in tournament or match play

Athletic ability, quickness, agility and raw athleticism are also qualities that separate the top players from those near the top