

IPA Pickleball Skill Ratings

2.0 Beginner

- * 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 Novice

- * 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 Lower Intermediate

- * 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 directional control
- * They are using dinks and lobs on a regular basis as part of their game

3.5 Upper Intermediate

- * 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 Advanced

- * 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.