

**Please see below the International Federation of Pickleball rating descriptions as a guide to help in your self-rating evaluation.**

<b>The IFP Rating System has been created to help describe differences in the various skill levels.</b>	
<b>Rating</b>	<b>Rating Description</b>
<b>1.0</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>New and have only minimal knowledge of the game and the rules.</b></li></ul>
<b>1.5</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Limited to some rallies.</b></li><li>• <b>Learning how to serve.</b></li><li>• <b>Developing a forehand.</b></li><li>• <b>Fails to return easy balls frequently and occasionally misses the ball entirely.</b></li><li>• <b>Played a few games and is learning the court lines, scoring, and some basic rules of the game.</b></li></ul>
<b>2.0</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Sustains a short rally with players of equal ability.</b></li><li>• <b>Demonstrating the basic shot strokes – forehand, backhand, volley, overhead and the serve, but has obvious weaknesses in most strokes.</b></li><li>• <b>Familiar with court positioning in doubles play.</b></li></ul>
<b>2.5</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Makes longer lasting slow-paced rallies.</b></li><li>• <b>Makes most easy volleys and uses some backhands, but needs more work on developing shot strokes.</b></li><li>• <b>Beginning to approach the non-volley zone to hit volleys.</b></li><li>• <b>Aware of the “soft game.”</b></li><li>• <b>Knowledge of the rules has improved.</b></li><li>• <b>Court coverage is weak but improving.</b></li></ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>More consistent on the serve and service return and when returning medium-paced balls.</b></li><li>• <b>Demonstrates improved skills with all the basic shot strokes and shot placement but lacks control when trying for direction, depth, or power on their shots.</b></li><li>• <b>Beginning to attempt lobs and dinks with little success and doesn’t fully understand when and why they should be used.</b></li></ul>

3.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Demonstrates improved stroke dependability with directional control on most medium-paced balls and some faster-paced balls.</b></li> <li>• <b>Demonstrates improved control when trying for direction, depth and power on their shots.</b></li> <li>• <b>Needs to develop variety with their shots.</b></li> <li>• <b>Exhibits some aggressive net play.</b></li> <li>• <b>Beginning to anticipate opponent's shots.</b></li> <li>• <b>Learning about the importance of strategy and teamwork in doubles.</b></li> </ul>
4.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Consistent and dependable strokes, including directional control and depth on both forehand and backhand shots.</b></li> <li>• <b>Reliable serves, lobs, overheads, approach shots and volleys and can use spin shots with some success.</b></li> <li>• <b>Occasionally can force errors when serving.</b></li> <li>• <b>Rallies may be lost due to impatience.</b></li> <li>• <b>Uses the dink shot and drop shots to slow down or change the pace of the game.</b></li> <li>• <b>Demonstrates 3<sup>rd</sup> shot strategies – drop shots, lobs, and fast-paced ground strokes.</b></li> <li>• <b>Aggressive net play and teamwork in doubles is evident.</b></li> <li>• <b>Fully understands the rules of the game and can play by them.</b></li> </ul>
4.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Beginning to master the use of power and spin, can successfully execute all shots, can control the depth of their shots, and can handle pace.</b></li> <li>• <b>Beginning to master the dink shots and drop shots and their importance to the game.</b></li> <li>• <b>Beginning to master 3<sup>rd</sup> shot choices.</b></li> <li>• <b>Displays sound footwork and moves well enough to get to the non-volley zone whenever required.</b></li> <li>• <b>Understands strategy and can adjust style of play and game plan according to the opponent's strengths and weaknesses and court position.</b></li> <li>• <b>Serves with power and accuracy and can also vary the speed and spin of the serve.</b></li> <li>• <b>Understands the importance of "keeping the ball in play" and the effect of making errors.</b></li> <li>• <b>Making good choices in shot selection.</b></li> <li>• <b>Anticipates the opponent's shots resulting in good court positioning.</b></li> </ul>

**5.0**

- **Mastered all the skills – all shot types, touch, spin, serves, with control and can use them as weapons.**
- **Excellent shot anticipation, extremely accurate shot placement and regularly hit winning shots.**
- **Forces opponents into making errors by “keeping the ball in play.”**
- **Mastered the dink and drop shots.**
- **Mastered the 3<sup>rd</sup> shot choices and strategies.**
- **Uses soft shots, dinks and lobs to set up offensive situations.**
- **Mastered pickleball strategies and can vary strategies and styles of play in competitive or tournament matches.**
- **Dependable in stressful situations as in tournament match play.**
- **Athletic ability, quickness, agility, and raw athleticism are also qualities that are sometimes what separates the top players from those near the top.**