

What do pickleball skill levels mean?

Here's a breakdown of each rating level, so you know where you stand
– and what it'll take to move up.

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| 2.0–2.5 (Beginner) | You have a little experience and can keep basic score. Your rallies can last 1-2 shots. |
| 3.0 (Lower intermediate) | You know the fundamental rules and can keep score. You're learning proper court positioning. You have some consistency with forehands and serves. You're starting to dink but not able to consistently sustain a dink rally yet. You still avoid backhands. |
| 3.5 (Intermediate) | Your forehands, serves, returns, and volleys are improving. You can sustain medium-length dink rallies. You're developing your third-shot drop. You're learning backhands but you avoid them if possible. You understand the difference between a hard and soft game and the need to vary them. |
| 4.0 (Upper intermediate) | You're starting to play more patiently in long rallies. You read your opponents' games and look for weaknesses. You mix soft shots with hard shots. You're aware of your partner's position and can play as a team. You have a moderate number of unforced errors. |
| 4.5 (Advanced) | You have a high level of forehand consistency. You serve with power, accuracy, and depth. You can vary serve spin and speed. You're more offensive on dinks. Your footwork is varied and efficient, with easy changes of direction. You're comfortable playing at the non-volley zone. You're confident in stacking. You strategize and can adjust your play style and have a limited number of unforced errors. |
| 5.0+ (Elite) | You hit all shot types at a high level across forehand and backhand. You have mastered dinks and drop shots. You play competitively. You have mastered pickleball strategies and can quickly adjust your play style. You rarely make unforced errors. |