Skill Assessments

Registration opens November 1st

To Register Click Here

The goal of a Skill Assessment is for you to "find your place" in our club where you will enjoy competitive games with players of similar skills. As your skills improve and your play becomes more consistent you may feel it is time to advance to the next skill rating. **To help you prepare for an assessment we recommend the following:**

- Practice and drill to ensure you are comfortable performing the skill listed below and including these skills in a game situation
- Play on the Saturday Designated Court Combo Court (see description below) on a least two occasions to help you sense how you "fit in" at the next level
- If you have taken classes here, discuss your decision with your instructor to help gauge your readiness

The skill assessment itself will consist of you playing 2-3 games with a partner at your current skill level who also wishes to be assessed. You do not need to find a partner, someone who also signs up for an assessment will be partnered with you by the Ratings Committee. The Ratings Committee will also arrange for you to play against a team of current players at the skill level you are desiring to advance to.

The Ratings Committee members (usually 3) will observe the games played, discuss the results privately after, compile a list of your strengths and things you should focus on for future improvement. You will be notified by email in 4-5 days if you are best served continuing to play at your current skill level or advance to the next skill level.

The Ratings Committee's assessment is based on USAP and IPTPA skill assessment standards. These are the skills you should be prepared to demonstrate in game play during the assessment.

3.0 skill level

- Consistent serves and return of serves with depth and direction
- A general understanding of rules and scoring
- A good understanding of proper positioning, especially in getting up to the kitchen line (Non Volley Zone)
- The ability to sustain a rally using both forehand and backhand with some consistency
- An ability to sustain volley and dink rallies

3.5 skill level

- High majority of serves and return of serves with depth and direction
- The ability to sustain a rally using both forehand and backhand with consistency and control
- An ability to sustain volley and dink rallies
- Ability to do resets and drop shots to get to the Non Volley Zone
- A solid understanding of proper positioning, especially in getting up to the Non Volley Zone
- Understanding of strategy and exploiting opponent's weaknesses
- A broad knowledge of rules and scoring

4.0 skill level

- High majority of serves and return of serves with depth and direction
- The ability to sustain a rally using both forehand and backhand with consistency and control
- Ability to sustain a dink rally with control and the patience to elicit a "put away" shot
- Know what balls are "attackable"
- An ability to sustain a volley rally
- Ability to hit and block hard drives effectively
- Ability to do resets and drop shots to get to the Non Volley Zone
- Ability to hit an overhead with direction, depth and placement
- A solid understanding of proper positioning, especially in getting up to the Non Volley Zone
- Ability to work with a partner via positioning and communication
- Understanding of strategy and exploiting opponent's weaknesses
- A broad knowledge of rules and scoring

Saturday Designated Court Day

On Saturday mornings during the season our courts are designated by ratings for play at your current skill level. We also have Combo Courts where two skill levels can play together. This provides players desiring to advance their skill rating level the opportunity to test their game at the next skill level.

Your assessment will be yourself paired with another player at your skill level, who is also being assessed, playing against two players who are currently rated at the higher skill level you are striving to attain. For example: If you are a 3.0 player seeking a 3.5 skill rating assessment, you will play with another 3.0 player as your partner playing against two current 3.5 players. You are not required to beat them but simply show your skills while playing against higher ranked players.

The Combo Courts give you this opportunity to play against a half point higher rated player to test your game and skills.

Saturdays from 8am - Noon you can queue your paddle up at the gate or rack of the Combo Court where players with half point higher ratings are also queued up. Play a few games there to prepare for your assessment. Even better, once you know who you will be playing with during the assessment (this player is assigned by the ratings team) you can contact them to join you and play together to prepare. We encourage you to play at least two Saturdays on the Combo Court before your scheduled assessment.