

## **Pickleball Numerical Skill Level Definition**

<https://usapickleball.org/tournaments/tournament-player-ratings/player-skill-rating-definitions/>

All Town of Greenwich Recreation sponsored pickleball activities are segmented by skill level to provide more playing opportunity. Participants are required to select the level (self-rank) that they are best suited for based on the USA Pickleball definitions (below). Greenwich pickleball activities provide 3 playing groups/levels: Beginners to low intermediates, Intermediates, and Advanced.



### **Beginners to low intermediates: 2.5 – 3.0**

2.5 - This player has limited experience. Can sustain a short rally with players of equal ability. Basic ability to keep score.

3.0 - Ability to hit a medium paced shot. Lacks directional intent and consistency. Not able to consistently sustain a dink rally. Not yet developed the ability to control this shot. Understands fundamentals. Is learning proper court positioning. Knows the fundamental rules and can keep score.

### **Intermediates: 3.5**

3.5 - Improved stroke development with moderate level of shot control; sometimes avoids backhand but developing more consistency. Consistently gets serve/return in play with limited ability to control depth. Sustains medium length rallies. Starting to understand variations of pace. Developing the drop shot and is able to volley medium paced shots thereby developing control. Can sustain short rallies. Moves quickly towards the non-volley zone. Is learning proper court positioning. Basic knowledge of stacking and understands situations where it can be effective.

### **Advanced: 4.0 +**

4.0 - Consistently hits forehand with depth and control. Is still perfecting shot selection and timing. Has improved stroke mechanics and has moderate success at hitting a backhand consistently. Places a high majority of serves/returns with varying depth and speed. Increased consistency with dink shot. Able to volley a variety of shots at different speeds. Aware of partner's position on the court and is able to move as a team. Demonstrates ability to change direction in an offensive manner. Demonstrates a broad knowledge of the rules of the game. Has a moderate number of unforced errors per game.

4.5 - High level of consistency. Uses pace and depth to generate opponents' error or set up next shot. Serves with power, accuracy, and depth and can also vary the speed and spin of the serve. Able to block hard volleys directed at them and can consistently drop them into the NVZ. Comfortable hitting swinging volleys. Hits overhead shots consistently, often as putaways. Consistently executes effective 3rd shot strategies that are not easily returned for advantage. Able to intentionally and consistently place the ball. Has good footwork and moves laterally, backward, and forward well. Understands strategy and can adjust style of play and game plan according to the opponent's strengths and weaknesses and court position. Limited number of unforced errors.

5.0 - Hits all shot types at a high level of ability from both the forehand and backhand sides including: touch, spin, and pace with control to set up offensive situations. Has developed good touch from all court positions. Has developed a very high level of variety, depth, and pace of serves. Places overheads with ease for winners. Able to volley shots toward opponents feet consistently. Mastered pickleball strategies and can vary strategies and styles of play in competitive or tournament matches.