

# Pickleball Skills Levels

The Simple Way to Figure Out Your Skill Level

**YES** = 5 or more statements are true

**NO** = 5 or more statements are not true

- I know where to stand at the beginning of each point
- I usually get my serves in bounds
- I usually let the return of serve bounce
- I am getting the hang of keeping score
- I can often keep the ball in play
- I know what a dink shot is

**NO**

**NEWBIE**  
1.0-2.0

**YES**

**NOVICE**  
2.5

- I have the basic rules down
- I am working on getting my serves and return of serves deeper
- I am working on getting my dinks shallower/lower
- I am capable of hitting a few dinks in a row
- I can usually hit backhand shots
- I'm trying to add more power or softness to my game

**YES**

**INTERMEDIATE (LOW)**  
3.0

- I know most of the rules (net rules, net post issues, NVZ, etc.)
- My serves and returns are almost always deep
- I sometimes try to hit a 3rd shot drop shot
- I try to be strategic about how and where I hit the ball
- I have a wide variety of shots in my arsenal
- I actively work with my partner to win the point

**YES**

**INTERMEDIATE (HIGH)**  
3.5

- I can often anticipate my opponents' shots
- I often finish the point when my opponent gives me an opening
- I am usually consistent with drop and dink shots
- I almost always play at the non-volley line
- With a good partner I can cover almost any shot
- I try to be patient and wait for the opening

**YES**

**ADVANCED**  
4.0

- I can consistently convert a hard shot to a soft shot
- I am almost always patient and wait for the opening
- I rarely make unforced errors
- I consistently use power and finesse to my advantage
- I can easily sustain a rally of 40 or more shots
- I have competed and/or won in tournaments at the 4.5 level or higher

**YES**

**EXPERT**  
4.5-5.0