



BVPA SKILLS MATRIX

Adaptation of Pickleball Canada Skills Matrix

SKILL	NOVICE	INTERMEDIATE (all Novice skills plus)	ADVANCED (all Intermediate skills plus)
GRIP	Basic, notched, soft, comfortable	Same	Same
READY POSITION	Consistently holds paddle up in correct ready position. Correct foot & body placement to strike ball. Demonstrates a degree of mobility, quickness & hand eye coordination.	From ready position, uses split step to move forward to NVZ line.	From ready position, uses split step to move forward to NVZ line.
SERVE	Experiments with best technique. Strikes the ball consistently. Serves ball into the correct court.	Able to place serve. Places serve to an area not covered by opponent.	Places serve deep into opponent's court. Uses a variety of serves, spins, speeds.
SERVE RETURN	Returns serve into opponent's court most times. Occasionally returns serve deep into opponent's court.	Consistently returns serve deep into opponent's court. Attempts to hit return of serve to opponent's backhand side of the court. Uses deeper and higher return of serve to allow time to approach net.	Return of serve to opponent's court is consistently successful. Return of serve is always deep into opponent's court. Places serve return to opponent's backhand on a regular basis. Occasionally drives an unreturnable serve return.
GROUND STROKE DRIVE SHOT	Able to move from ready position to appropriate court position to make a forehand or backhand shot. Able to run & time swing to execute a ground stroke.	Demonstrates consistent & controlled ground strokes varying placement depth, direction for forehand and backhand.	Uses varying speeds & shot placements according to opponent's position on the court. Consistently hits balls with accuracy.

SKILL	NOVICE	INTERMEDIATE (all Novice skills plus)	ADVANCED (all Intermediate skills plus)
OVERHEAD SHOT	Able to perform an overhead shot. Hits overhead shot with control.	Consistently hits overhead shots with control & direction.	Consistently places overhead shots with power, placement & control.
DINK SHOT	Able to hit forehand & backhand dink shot when at a stationary position.	Maintains a sustained dink shot exchange at the NVZ line.	Initiates & maintains a sustained dinking rally at the net.
DROP SHOT THIRD SHOT DROP	Attempts a slow paced drop shot during a rally.	Demonstrates a willingness to use a forehand or backhand drop shot from the back of the court. Successfully completes a drop shot from the back of the court during play.	Consistently completes unattackable forehand or backhand drop shot from anywhere on the court. Uses drop shot appropriately.
LOB SHOT	Not recommended due to player safety reasons.	Demonstrates ability to use lob shot.	Consistently delivers unreturnable lob shot.
PUNCH VOLLEY DROP VOLLEY	Attempts punch or drop volley from behind the NVZ line.	Quickly moves to NVZ line during play to be in position to make a punch volley or drop volley shot. Successfully completes drop volley & punch volley shots at NVZ line.	Consistently makes punch volley or drop volley when at NVZ line. Controls direction & speed of shot.

	NOVICE	INTERMEDIATE (all Novice skills plus)	ADVANCED (all Intermediate skills plus)
GAME RULES	Understands basic rules of the game. Consistently calls score correctly. Confidently calls balls in or out.	Good knowledge of the rules of the game. Uses rules to shape the style of play and shot selection.	Uses rules of game to gain an advantage over opponent.
STRATEGY BASED ON RULES	Knows where to stand to serve & receive serve.	Can implement strategic court positions & shot selection.	Able to poach & stack.
COURT MOVEMENT	Moves to NVZ line occasionally.	Moves to NVZ when appropriate. Is aware of court position in relation to partner's position. Good agility & moves in sync with partner.	Consistently & quickly moves to NVZ line. Can move quickly around the court as play requires. Plays effectively with different partners.
SHOT SELECTION	Understands the difference between a hard shot & a soft shot. Attempts soft shots & dink shots during play. Demonstrates controlled ground strokes.	Begins to use third shot drop during play. Able to place groundstrokes. Delivers unattackable balls occasionally. Demonstrates a variety of shots.	Able to employ a variety of shots in various situations. Able to adjust shot selection based on opponent's court position. Able to anticipate opponent's next shot and moves into position to return. Dinks with purpose and with patience. Strategically returns balls. Keeps ball in play and patiently waits to make the unattackable shot.

Adapted from: Pickleball Canada