

THE PRACTICAL EXPLANATION

How To Determine Your Pickleball Rating

When you don't have to think about which shot to hit,
you just naturally hit it, **you are a 5.0**

When you don't have to think about which shot to hit,
but you can't successfully hit it 2000 times in a row, **you are a 4.5**

When you have to think about which shot to hit,
and when you figure it out, you can successfully hit it, **you are a 4.0**

When you have to think about which shot to hit,
but then still hit the wrong shot, **you are a 3.5**

When you have to think about which shot to hit,
but by the time you decide on the correct shot it's too late to hit it,
so you just go with trying to get it back over the net, **you are a 3.0**

When you don't bother to think about which shot to hit,
and most of the time don't hit it in the court anyhow,
you are a 2.5 and guaranteed to be having a lot of fun.

THE ACTUAL EXPLANATION

USAPA Ratings

According to USA Pickleball, the 2-digit breakdown is as follows (for the complete skill rating definition, [click here](#)):

- **1.0 – 2.0** A player who is just starting to play pickleball and has no other sports background.
- **2.5** A player who has limited experience and can sustain a short rally.
- **3.0** A player who understands fundamentals and court positioning.
- **3.5** player who can acknowledge the difference between a hard game and soft game. They move quickly to the non-volley zone. They understand when stacking may be effective.
- **4.0** A player who is able to identify and attack their opponents' weaknesses. They are aware of their partners' position on the court and are able to move as a team.
- **4.5** A player who understands strategy and has good footwork. They are able to communicate and move well with their partner.
- **5.0** A player who has mastered pickleball strategies. They have efficient footwork and can easily adjust their game to their opponents' strengths and weaknesses. They rarely make unforced errors.
- **5.5+** A player who has mastered pickleball. They are a top-caliber player.