

Blind River Pickleball Club Assessment

Name _____ Raters _____ + _____

Skill Test

Description of Skill				
Name	Description	Level 3	Level 2	Level 1
Forehand Drive	Technique, direction, depth, L3 4/10, L2 7/10, L1 9/10. 10 Reps, 5 each side			
Backhand Drive	Technique, direction, depth, L3 2/10, L2 6/10, L1 8/10 10 Reps, 5 each side			
Serve	Consistency, Depth, Direction L3 4/10, L2 7/10, L1 9/10 10 Reps, 5 each side			
Serve Return	Consistency, Depth, L3 4/10, L2 7/10, L1 9/10. 10 Reps, 5 each side			
Drop Shots	Technique, consistency, L3 2/10, L2 3/10, L1 5/10 10 Reps, 5 each forehand and backhand			
Dinks	Technique, placement, 10 dink rally test both forehand and backhand. L3 4/20, L2 13/20, L1 16/20			

Performance Test

Live Play

Description of Skill		Level 3	Level 2	Level 1
Serve and Receive	Consistency depth			
Dinking	Can initiate during game situation Sustain short dink rally with some control.L3 2/10, L2 6/10, L1 8/10			
Drop/Third Shots	Can initiate during game situation L3 2/10, L2 3/10, L1 5/10			
Court Movement/ Court Positioning	Can move with partner, Communicates, Right place/right time L3 2/20, L2 5/10, L1 7/10			

Part 1 – Skill Assessment

This assessment is broken into 6 parts. For each part you should assess the skill as to whether it falls within Level 3 to Level 1.

Ensure players are warmed up prior to commencing the assessment. It is recommended that the person feeding the ball to the player be feeding cooperative balls to ensure the fairness of the test.

Forehand

Begin with cross-court forehands. The assessor is looking for the technique being used, depth and consistency. If the player can do the cross-court forehands successfully, request that they try hitting the forehand down the line. Assuming the technique being used is reasonable and the depth is at least 3 quarters of the way to the baseline with a consistency of L3 4/10, L2 7/10, L1 9/10.

Backhand

Begin with cross-court backhands. The assessor is looking to ensure the technique being used is reasonable as well as depth and consistency. If the player can do the cross-court backhand successfully, request that they try hitting the backhands down the line. The assessor is looking for depth of at least 3 quarters of the way to the baseline. Assuming the technique used is reasonable with a consistency of L3 2/10, L2 6/10, L1 8/10.

Serve

Begin with serves on the server's forehand side. The assessor is looking for consistency and depth (to within 5 or 6 feet of the baseline). The candidate may be asked to try to hit targets (down the middle or to the sideline) again with depth. The ability to hit a target tells the assessor much about the player's ability. Now repeat all the same drills from the backhand side. Consistency looked for is L3 4/10, L2 7/10, L1 9/10.

Serve Returns

The assessor will serve 5 serves to the player and request that the player return the serves. We look for consistency and depth (last 6 feet of court) and control. Generally the player may be asked to return cross court first, then I will request that the player return the ball down the line. Serves should go to the player on both sides of the court (at least 5 on each side). The assessor should ensure that at least some of the returns are done with the player's backhand. Consistency looked for is L3 4/10, L2 7/10, L1 9/10.

Third Shot Drops

This skill is often the skill that will determine whether or not a player is a Level 2 or above. Many players' believe that hitting hard shots is all you need to do to become a good player. While the ability to hit good hard shots are important, the ability to hit a 3rd shot drop allows you to become a well rounded player and introduce soft shots into your repertoire. In this drill we will

have the player hit cross-court 3rd shot drops. Players should bend their knees and use a lifting motion.

The shots should have an arc and should land within 6 inches of the kitchen line. A person should have a success rate of L3 2/10, L2 3/10, L1 5/10. There should be 5 attempts using forehand and 5 attempts using backhand.

Dinks

This is a very important part of the soft game. Technique should be to bend knees and use a lifting motion. The assessor should move the player around the court and the successful candidate should be able to maintain a controlled rally. Consistency should be L3 2/10, L2 6/10, L1 8/10 with 10 attempts with each forehand and backhand.

Performance Assessment

This portion of the assessment will determine how players perform during game play. The ideal scenario would be for the player being rated to play with players who have already achieved the rating desired. In other words if a player wants to achieve a Level 1 rating he/she should demonstrate their ability to play with other Level 1 players.

It is important to note that winning games during this part of the assessment is irrelevant.

We want the player being assessed to clearly demonstrate their ability to compete at the desired rating level. At the same time they need to demonstrate that they are able to demonstrate all the skills they were assessed on during the skill portion of this test. Players may believe that by winning games and playing the power game they are competing with players within their rating group. However, many players forget about the soft part of the game during this portion of the assessment. It is important that the assessor reminds players during the games to demonstrate all skills.

If the assessed player does not demonstrate at least some third shots drops and dinking ability during the game section of the assessment they cannot achieve a Level 1.