

## HUNT CLUB PICKLEBALL RATINGS

Players below 2.0 Rating are considered **New to Pickleball**. They are learning to hit foundational shots, where to stand on court, how to score and rules

	2.0 Rating	2.5 Rating	3.0 Rating
Serve/Return	Focus on just getting it in. Some errors	Starting to think about hitting to a spot but inconsistent in execution. Some errors	Thinks about where they want to hit to. Consistency is improving but errors still made – especially on BH
Ground Strokes	Focus on just getting it in. Inconsistent control leads to errors – especially BH	Gaining better control but still inconsistent in execution. Likely weaker on BH vs FH	Starting to think about pace and placement. Errors still made – especially on BH
Touch Shots	Aware of shot and value with focus on just getting it in. Inconsistent in execution (too high or into net)	Gaining better control but still inconsistent in execution	Starting to think about placement with control improving. Able to sustain longer rallies
3 <sup>rd</sup> Shot Drop/Drive/Lob	Aware of 3 <sup>rd</sup> shot drop but can't execute yet. Uses drive or lob to get to net but inconsistent in execution	Starting to try 3 <sup>rd</sup> shot drops but mainly use drives/lobs to get to net. Quality of these shots are low resulting in difficulty neutralizing the point	Can use any of these shots with increasing consistency but still developing quality. As a result, rallies may still end too often before point is neutralized
Volleys	Inconsistent execution with focus on just getting it in. Errors are high	Inconsistent execution with focus on getting it in. Level of errors are improving	Consistency is improving
Overheads	Inconsistent. High level of errors	Inconsistent. Focus on getting it in. High level of errors	Consistency and technique is improving. Lower errors
Offensive Lobs	Awareness is low and use is rare.	Aware of shot and value but use is rare and execution is inconsistent	Aware of when to use. Execution is improving but still inconsistent
Movement/ Positioning	At minimum: knows where to stand if team is serving, returning serve or executing 3 <sup>rd</sup> shot. Knows to get to net following return of serve. Sometimes forgets. Often drifts off NVL unnecessarily due to lack of comfort there. Often runs through shots and/or reaches for shots instead of moving	At minimum: same as 2.0 rated but rarely forgets. Working on when/how to advance to NVL as the serving team. May stay back too long or advance too quickly. May drift off NVL unnecessarily due to lack of comfort there. High level of errors occur due to poor footwork (not moving feet/reaching)	Starts point standing in correct position. Returns and gets to NVL most times. Is working on getting to NVL in a controlled manner when part of the serving team. Understands need to cover the middle through positioning. Working on being set before opponents hit the ball and movement front/back/side to side based on where ball is with opponent and where partner is
Strategy/ Partnership	Focus is on getting ball in and covering their half the court.	Aware that hitting to certain spots will add pressure to the opponents. Control/execution is still lacking. Still little thought to partnership play and “whose ball is it”	Awareness and now improved ability to hit to spots is putting some pressure on opponents. Some points are being developed with a purpose. Starting to think about right shot at right time (patience vs offence). Starting to think about “whose ball it is” when ball is in the middle. Some partnership communication

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	3.5 Rated	4.0 Rated	4.5 Rated
Serve/Return	Uses placement and pace to put pressure on opponents. At times may result in errors. Uses variety to keep opponents off balance. Gets to NVL after return and is set for 4 <sup>th</sup> shot	Uses placement and pace with greater success to put pressure on opponents. May be adding spin. Variety keeps opponents off balance	Reliable serve that adds pressure based on pace/placement/spin
Ground Strokes	Able to drive ball from back of court on FH side with some degree of pressure/placement. Still developing this on BH side. Shot quality may decrease when faced with spin from opponent	Able to drive ball from back of court on FH side with good pressure/placement. BH may not be as consistent/good. Recognises and is able to adapt to spin from opponents with some inconsistency. May be working on adding spin to their shots in increase pressure	Able to drive ball from back of court on FH side with good pressure/placement. BH may not be as good but few errors are made. Recognises and is able to adapt to spin from opponents with consistency. Adds spin to vary their shots/keep opponents off balance
Touch Shots	Greater control and placement on shots. Hitting to spots with a purpose more often with depth and pace starting to be considered. Starting to understand when its best to take before bounce vs when to step back.	Control is good and regularly using placement/pace to help set up the point. Greater understanding of taking ball before bounce vs step back. Starting to read when opportunity created for attack. Fewer unforced errors made.	Few unforced errors made as control improves. Pace, placement and spin used to create opportunities to attack with readiness to attack when opportunity presents itself. Shots are made with a clear purpose
3 <sup>rd</sup> Shot Drop/Drive/Lob	Can use all with increasing consistency but still developing quality. Rallies may still end too often before point is neutralized. Gaining control on drop and pace on drive. Recognizing when best to hit each	Can use all with good consistency/quality. Pace on drive can create opportunity. Fewer rallies end before serving team neutralizes point. Understands and gaining comfort with 5 <sup>th</sup> /7 <sup>th</sup> /etc. shots needed from back or transition zone	Control/quality/consistency all reasonably good on 3 <sup>rd</sup> /5 <sup>th</sup> /7 <sup>th</sup> shots to ensure team is able to neutralize the point
Volleys	Consistency is improving and starting to think about placement	Able to hit block, punch and swinging volleys to put pressure on opponents with improved consistency. Placement improving	Able to hit block, punch and swinging volleys to put pressure on opponents with improved consistency and placement
Overheads	Consistency and technique is improving. Lower errors	Consistency, placement and power are all improving. Errors decreasing	Improved consistency, placement and power resulting in clear winners/increased pressure
Offensive Lobs	Aware of when to use. Execution is improving but still inconsistent	Using with greater success from FH to push opponents off NVL. BH still developing	Timely use on both FH and BH pushes opponents off NVL and puts team on offense. Few errors

<p>Movement/ Positioning</p>	<p>Working on getting to NVL in a controlled manner when part of the serving team. Understands concept of check step and starting to use. Working on lateral movement at NVL based on where ball is with opponents and need to position self in advance of opponent's hit.</p>	<p>Greater confidence moving through transition zone with control. Is ready and in position prior to opponents hitting their shot most times. Regularly covers middle when ball is diagonal. Has good lateral and front/back movement ability to cover most shots. Starting to poach when opportunity presents. Starting to look for/attempt Ernes and ATP's (as well as defense of these) with some success.</p>	<p>Good movement through transition zone with control. Is ready and in position prior to opponents hitting their shot. Covers middle when ball is diagonal. Able to move in a controlled/balance manner both laterally and front/back to cover most shots. Looks for opportunity to/attempts poach/ATP/Erne with good success as well as defend against these.</p>
<p>Strategy/ Partnership</p>	<p>Awareness and now improved ability to hit to spots is putting pressure on opponents. Points are more often being developed with a purpose. Greater awareness of and ability to execute right shot at right time (patience vs offence). Starting to think about general strengths/weaknesses of all players to build points. Starting to work as a team to cover the court and know "whose ball it is" (through middle and off lobs). Starting to move laterally and front/back as a team. Some partnership communication on balls through middle. Hits fewer out balls</p>	<p>Points are normally being developed with a purpose and, combined with greater control, are adding pressure to opponents. Knows to use reset shot to reduce angst and uses with good success. Often attempts right shot at right time (patience vs offence). Starting to assess strengths/weaknesses of opponents/ own team to set up rallies for greater success (build a game plan). Starting to read/ anticipate opponent's shots. Moves laterally and front/back as a team most times. Good partnership communication on balls through middle resulting in little confusion of "whose ball is it". Improved recognition to leave out balls</p>	<p>Normally hits with a purpose (shot/placement/ pace/spin) with good quality. Hits the right shot at the right time (patience vs offence). Regularly looks for opportunity to put pressure on opponents. Can read/anticipate opponents shots easily resulting in better preparation. Knows their role on the team and how to play that role. Good communication with partner. Easily covers court front/back and laterally with partner to take away opponents angles/ easy shots through middle. Little confusion with partner on balls through middle. Rarely hits out balls</p>

Higher rated players demonstrate the same skills as 4.5 rated players but with greater consistency, control, pace, placement and spin all while committing fewer unforced errors