



CAIRNS PICKLEBALL CLUB

SELF-RATING GUIDES

RATING	DESCRIPTION
BEGINNER LEVEL	
1.0 – 2.5	Novice players. Learning to serve & return the serve. Learning scoring & rules. Short rallies.
1.0 Skills	New and have only minimal knowledge of the game and the rules.
1.5 Skills	• Limited to some rallies • Learning how to serve • Developing a forehand • Fails to return easy balls frequently and occasionally misses the ball entirely. • Played a few games and is learning the court lines, scoring, and some basic rules of the game.
2.0 Skills	• Sustains a short rally with players of equal ability. • Demonstrating the basic shot strokes forehand, backhand, volley, overhead and the serve, but has obvious weaknesses in most strokes. • Familiar with court positioning in doubles play.
2.5 Skills	• Makes longer lasting slow-paced rallies. • Makes most easy volleys and uses some backhands, but needs more work on developing shot strokes. • Beginning to approach the non-volley zone to hit volleys. • Aware of the “soft game.” • Knowledge of the rules has improved. • Court coverage is weak but improving.
INTERMEDIATE LEVEL	
3.0	Know how to play the game, the rules and scoring. Mostly hard hitters and less likely to come to the NVZ. Need to learn the 3rd shot and approach strategies to reach the NVZ. Subject to easy put-aways by opponents.
3.0 Skills	• More consistent on the serve and service return and when returning medium-paced balls. • Demonstrates improved skills with all the basic shot strokes and shot placement but lacks control when trying for direction, depth, or power on their shots. • Beginning to attempt lobs and dinks with little success and doesn’t fully understand when and why they should be used.
3.0 – 3.5	Learning the 3rd shot drop, dealing with hard hitters and developing shot placement.
DEFINITELY PLAY UP IN ADVANCED LEVEL FOR EVENTS	
3.5	A useable 3rd shot drop, some extended dinking and rallies. Have most of the pickleball shots.
3.5 Skills	• Demonstrates improved stroke consistency with directional control on most medium-paced balls and some faster-paced balls • Demonstrates improved control when trying for direction, depth and power on their shots. • Needs to develop variety with their shots. • Exhibits some aggressive net play. • Beginning to anticipate opponent’s shots. • Learning about the importance of strategy and teamwork in doubles.
3.5 – 4.0	Have both a hard & soft game, have extended rallies and all the shots.
ADVANCED LEVEL	
4.0	Have all the shots plus can hit with consistency & accuracy. Able to employ team strategies.
4.0 Skills	• Consistently hits with depth, placement and power. • Comfortable at the non-volley zone and transitions smoothly between the baseline and the kitchen. • Uses a variety of shots (dinks, drops, drives, lobs, overheads) effectively. • Reads the game well and adjusts strategy with their partner. • Consistent third shot drop and strong net game. • Limits unforced errors.
4.5 – 5.0	Highly consistent. High-level court positioning and shot selection. Can beat most players.
PRO LEVEL	
5.0 Pro	• Exceptional shot variety, control and power. • Elite movement, reflexes and anticipation. • Advanced strategies and ability to exploit opponents’ weaknesses. • Wins against other top-level players consistently. • Tournament-caliber performance.