

Dallas Pickleball Club Skill Level Guidelines

2.0 (Beginner)	2.5 (Novice)	3.0 (Intermediate)	3.5 (Advanced Intermediate)	4.0 (Advanced)	4.5/5.0 (Highly Advanced)
Learning to keep score and basic rules	Can keep score and knows the basic rules	Knows most rules and how to call them	Can reverse score based on player start positioning	Knows advanced rules and how to call them	can referee games with full knowledge of rules and how to apply them
Learning where to stand on court during play	Beginning to understand court positioning during serves, returns, NVZ line & transition area during play	Understands basic court positioning during serves, returns, NVZ line & transition area during play	In the correct position most of the time and learning to read the ball to know where to be	Is in the correct position 80% of the time based on opponent and ball positioning	Is always in the correct position based on opponent and ball positioning
Learning to move in a safe, balanced manner	Can move safely during play	Learning to move quickly to good locations during play	Moves quickly to good locations during play to prepare for next shot	Is almost always in the correct position during play	Reads opponents body, paddle and ball to move to location for next shot
Hits 50% of serves and 30% of return's "IN"	Hitting 60% of serves and 50% of returns "In"	Hitting 70% of serves and 60% of returns "In" plus adding depth	Hitting 80% of serves and 70% of returns "In" plus adding depth and placement	Hitting 90% of serves and 80% of returns "In" plus adding strategic placement	Hitting 95% of serves and 95% of returns "In" can place wherever chosen based on opponent
Limited skills for backhand, overheads, lob's and volleys	Attempting backhand, overheads, lobs and volleys with some success	Controlling backhand, overheads, lobs and volleys with 50% success	Controlling backhand, overheads, lobs and volleys with 70% success	Controlling backhand, overheads, lobs and volleys with 80% success	Controlling backhand, overheads, lobs and volleys with 95% success
Learning basic forehand ground stokes and dinking	Learning how to control pace, height and direction of the ball	Can control pace, height, and location of 50% of shots	Can control pace, height, and location of 70% of shots	Can control pace, height, and location of 80% of shots	Can control pace, height, and location of 95% of shots
Learning dink skills and how to hit soft but over the net	Improving on dinking with fewer pop-ups and net strikes	Has a good amount of successful dinks that are low and short	Can dink with purpose moving opponents around	can add spin, direction and varying pace to dinks	Comfortably dinks based on opponents movements with spin and pace
Capable of limited sustained rally's	Sustaining rally's for 3-5 shots	Sustaining rally's for 5-8 shots	Sustaining rally's for 8-12 shots	Sustaining rally's for 12-15 shots	Sustaining rally's for 15-30 shots
Limited hand/eye coordination	Developing better hand/eye coordination	Good hand/eye coordination	Faster hand/eye coordination	Excellent hand/eye coordination	Exceptional hand/eye coordination
Learning what an unforced error is and how to mitigate them	Makes 60% unforced errors during play	Makes 40% unforced errors during play	Makes 30% unforced errors during play	Makes 20% unforced errors during play	Makes 5% unforced errors during play
Learning what a third shot is but drives and the drop shot is difficult to execute	Knows what a 3rd shot is and attempting either a drive or a drop most of the game with some success	Executes drop shots 50% of time and is improving on low drives when appropriate	Executes 70% of drop shots and low drives	Executes 85% of drop shots and low drives, learning how to hit drive/drop (drip)	Executes 95% of drop shots and low drives plus ability to hit drive/drop (drip)
Learning to defend different ball speeds and placements	Recognizing different ball speeds and defending a small %	Can judge different ball speeds and defends with 50% success	Can judge different ball speeds and defends with 60% success	Can judge different ball speeds and defends with 80% success	Can judge different ball speeds and defends with 95% success
Learning doubles and how to play with a partner	Learning partners court area and responsibilities	Communicating with partner and some basic strategy	Good partner communication and court coverage responsibilities	Great partner communication and understands stacking strategies	Great partner communication, stacking & ability to take 80% of court when appropriate
Learning what an out ball looks like in flight	Can recognize some out balls and tries to not hit them	Recognizes 50% of out balls and lets them go	Recognizes 70% of out balls and lets them go	Recognizes 85% of out balls and lets them go	Recognizes 95% of out balls and lets them go
Strategy is learning the game	Understands limited strategy, focuses on "over and in"	Learning basic strategy on ball placement, gaps from opponents, when to hit hard and soft.	Applying strategy to play based on opponents, able to speed up more shots	Understands most strategy, can successfully hit hard and soft plus directional placement	very strategic play based on opponents strengths and weaknesses.