



Harbor Square Pickleball Ratings

Rating 1.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● New player with understanding of the game and rules.
Rating 1.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Can hit the ball back and forth a bit – may miss a few ● Learning to serve ● Fails to hit easy balls frequently ● Beginning to learn the basic rules such as scoring, lines, sideouts, etc. ● Understands ground strokes, but hasn't perfected them yet
Rating 2.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sustains short rallies before there is a fault ● Makes basic strokes such as forehand, backhand, volley and can serve the ball ● Understands court positioning and doubles rules
Rating 2.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Can sustain longer rallies but not at a fast pace ● Makes most easy shots including backhands, but still needs some work ● Able to approach the non-volley zone and hit volleys ● Aware of dinks ● Good understanding of the rules ● Struggles to cover the entire court
Rating 3.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Has a consistent serve and returns medium-paced balls reliably ● Able to make all basic strokes. Lacks control when trying to place the ball. Avoids backhands. ● Attempts lobs and dinks with limited success ● Knows the fundamentals of pickleball and is ready to play tournaments.
Rating 3.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Consistent control and placement of medium-paced shots. Able to return fast-paced shots with slightly less success. ● Improved control and placement of the ball. ● Needs more shot variety ● Needs to work on backhand ● Serves – needs to control the depth ● Developing 3rd shot drop shot in order to get to the net ● Acknowledges the difference between hard game and soft game and is starting to vary own during play accordingly ● Can play aggressively at the non-volley zone ● Anticipates opponent's shots ● Learning the strategy of doubles play – how to work with his partner

<p>Rating 4.0</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Consistent both forehand and backhand strokes ● Can use spin with some success ● Can occasionally force errors when serving ● May lose rallies due to impatience ● Uses the dink and drop shot successfully ● Demonstrates 3rdshot strategies – mix up drop shot & drives ● Aggressive net play in doubles ● Volleys – able to volley variety of shots at different speeds ● Can spot weaknesses in opponents & understands how using certain skills can work in their favor
<p>Rating 4.5</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Forehand/Backhand - high level of consistency. Uses pace and depth to generate opponents' error or set up next shot ● Serve/Return – Serves with power, accuracy and depth and can vary the speed and spin of the serve ● Dink – ability to place ball with high success at changing shot types while playing both consistently and with offensive intent. Recognizes and attempts to hit attackable dinks. ● 3rd Shot – consistently executes effective 3rdshot strategies that are not easily returned for advantage. ● Volley – able to block hard volleys directed at them and can consistently drop them into the NVZ. Comfortable hitting swinging volleys. ● Strategy – Has good footwork and moves laterally, backward and forward well. Able to change direction with ease. Very comfortable playing at the NVZ. Communicates and moves well with partner. Understands strategy and can adjust style of play and game plan according to the opponent's strengths and weaknesses and court position. Limited number of unforced errors.
<p>Rating 5.0</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Forehand/backhand/serve/return – hits all shot types at a high level of ability including: touch, spin, and pace with control to set up offensive situations. Has developed a very high level of variety, depth and pace of serves. ● Dink –Has mastered the dink and drop shots. Exhibits patience during rallies with the ability to create an opportunity to attack utilizing the dink. ● 3rdshot – Has mastered the 3rdshot choices and strategies to create opportunities for winning points. Able to drop and drive ball from both forehand and backhand side with high level of consistency. ● Volley – Able to block hard volleys directed at them and consistently drop them into the NVZ. Places overheads with ease for winners. Comfortable with swinging volley. ● Strategy – Has mastered pickleball strategies and can vary strategies of play in competitive matches. Is successful at turning defensive shots into offensive shots. Easily and quickly adjusts style of play and game plan according to the opponents' strengths and weaknesses and court position. Rarely makes unforced errors.