Pickleball Skill Level Guide

YES = "Yes" to 6 or More Statements

NO = "No" to 3 or More Statements

- I know where to stand at the beginning of each point
- I usually get my serves "in"
- I usually let the return serve bounce
- I am getting the hang of keeping score
- I can often keep the ball in play
- I know what a dink shot is
- I'm starting to make it to the non-volley zone

NO → NEWBIE 2.0

YES

- I have the basic rules down 100%
- I am working on getting my serves & return of serves deeper
- I am working on getting my dinks shallower/lower
- I am capable of hitting a few dinks in a row
- I can usually hit backhand shots when I need to
- I'm trying to add more power or softness to my game
- I am often "not in the right spot" or can't move quickly.

NO → BEGINNER 2.5

YES

- I know almost all of the "special case" rules
- Me serves & returns are almost always deep
- I sometimes try to hit a 3rd shot drop
- I try to be strategic about how and where I hit the ball
- I have a wide variety of shots in my arsenal
- I actively work with my partner to win the point
- I often anticipate where the ball is going and move smoothly and quickly on the court

NO → NOVICE 3.0

YES

- I can often anticipate my opponents' shot
- I often finish the point when my opponent gives me an opening
- I am usually consistent with drop shots and dink shots
- I almost always play at the non-volley line
- I work well with a partner to execute court coverage
- I try to be patient & wait for the opening
- I move around the court in a smooth, balanced manner, anticipating backhands, lobs, dinks etc. most of the time

NO → INTERMEDIATE 3.5

YES

- I can consistently convert a hard shot to a soft shot
- I am almost always patient & wait for the opening
- I rarely make unforced errors
- I consistently use power & finesse to my advantage
- I can easily sustain a rally of 40 or more shots
- I have been competitive in tournaments at the 4.5 level or higher
- I am like a rabbit on the court, moving with my partner to cover the entire court, execute shots and recover to proper position for both defense and offense.

NO → ADVANCED 4.0

YES → EXPERT 4.5 +