



GREENHILLS  
COUNTRY CLUB



# **PICKLEBALL**

## **RATING & LEVEL DESCRIPTIONS**



# **PICKLEBALL CLUB RATING SKILL DESCRIPTIONS FOR LEVEL 1.0 TO 4.5**

We offer programs for all members based on your skill level. When players request a Club Rating it is based on required shots for that level. The rating is based on how consistently a player performs the required shots to play in a certain level during game situations. Please review the requirements for a level prior to a Club Rating.

Please note that all Mixed Socials, All Level Socials and Ladies 2.5, do not require a club rating. We recognize that some members, no matter their skill set prefer to play in the social programs only.

## **THE PURPOSE:**

The purpose of rated programs is to ensure a consistent and competitive level of play for all players in that program as much as possible. We will have a call up system as well for players close to the next level for 2023.

If you are currently not Club Rated and are considering playing in any program level 3.0 and above, please contact our Pickleball Coordinator ([sscarfone@greenhillslondon.com](mailto:sscarfone@greenhillslondon.com)) to set up a time for the evaluation.

## **HOW TO GET RATED:**

Rating times will be set 2 to 3 times monthly for each level and advance sign ups will be required. Once an evaluation is requested, players will be preevaluated at no cost in their current level. Some exceptions may/will apply. If players do not receive a level there is a two month waiting time to try again.

Note, a rating is not permanent. The level you receive must be maintained and hopefully improved upon. We are often evaluating in programs and players will be contacted if skills no longer meet that level they have obtained. Please note that if you have been away from a level for a period of time, that you do have the skills required when you come back in for the enjoyment of the other members. Players can play down a level to work on their skills if needed. Please contact our club coordinator for this exception.

Please do not register for a program that you are not currently rated for before you have a Club Rating. Players registered without a Club Rating will be removed and contacted by our Pickleball Co-Coordinator.

## **WHO EVALUATES:**

Our Club evaluators are either a Pro Level Coach or CRS (Certified Rating Specialist). We take this seriously as we know levels are very important to the player. If you are looking to enter a tournament, be confident to enter in the level at which you are club rated. Tournaments are a great way to develop your game when registering in your appropriate level.

## **RATING COST:**

\$30.00 PER PLAYER for Club Rating which covers the game evaluations (3 games minimum) and written report outlining your individual strengths and areas for improvement. The court fee is additional cost. Please note that this is for our Club purposes and is not an official rating.

Players to have a positive and encouraging attitude towards partners and opponents at all times.

For questions please contact Sharon our Pickleball Coordinator at [sscarfone@greenhillslondon.com](mailto:sscarfone@greenhillslondon.com).

# PICKLEBALL RATINGS 1.0-4.5: LEVEL DESCRIPTIONS

Players to have a positive and encouraging attitude towards partners and opponents at all times.

Any questions at any time please contact Sharon, Pickleball Coordinator  
Email: [sscarfone@greenhillslondon.com](mailto:sscarfone@greenhillslondon.com)

Level	Description
Level 1.0-1.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This player is just starting to play pickleball and has minimal understanding of rules of the game</li> </ul>
Level 2.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• knows the basic rules of the game, including the two-bounce rule</li> <li>• knows scoring</li> <li>• learning positioning on the court based on scoring</li> <li>• learning proper paddle ready position and athletic stance</li> <li>• shows understanding of how to serve and can place serve into the correct square</li> <li>• can move in a balanced manner</li> <li>• starting to understand the reason for a 3rd shot drop or drive but cannot yet make this shot</li> <li>• can begin to show soft rallies at the non-volley zone line using forehand. Player can start to move the soft shot cross court</li> <li>• starting to develop hand-eye coordination</li> </ul>
Level 2.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• possesses all previous skill level requirements</li> <li>• understands all the fundamentals of the game</li> <li>• has better consistency of all basic shots</li> <li>• knows positioning on the court based on scoring</li> <li>• understanding proper paddle ready position and athletic stance</li> <li>• knows scoring and can keep accurate scoring throughout the game</li> <li>• places serve into the correct square with consistency</li> <li>• can move forward and backwards in a safe and balanced manner and laterally along the non-volley zone line (kitchen line)</li> <li>• starting to understand the reason for a 3rd shot drop or drive and beginning to have some success developing this shot from a mid-court position</li> <li>• beginning to work on consistency of soft rallies at the non-volley zone line using both forehand and backhand. Player can move the soft shot cross court with some success and is working on keeping the ball in play longer</li> <li>• starting to show control on a forehand and backhand ground stroke with direction and is starting to place the ball deeper into the court with some consistency</li> <li>• starting to demonstrate good hand-eye coordination</li> <li>• starting to show a punch shot at the non-volley zone line</li> <li>• starting to demonstrate how to hit an overhead smash with correct form</li> </ul>

Level	Description
Level 3.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• possesses all previous skill level requirements</li> <li>• has good consistency of all basic shots and is working on good body positioning to improve consistency and patience to control shots</li> <li>• uses proper paddle ready position and athletic stance</li> <li>• remains behind the baseline to receive the serve</li> <li>• remains behind the baseline after a serve</li> <li>• beginning to work on focus to anticipate shots</li> <li>• starting to understand when to approach the non-volley zone pending the quality of the 3rd shot. Starting to learn creeping</li> <li>• can place serve with consistency using depth and direction and starting to vary type and placement of serve</li> <li>• demonstrating an overhead smash with proper form and good placement</li> <li>• performing a 3rd shot drop with some consistency (non-attackable) or 3rd shot drive with some consistency and placement</li> <li>• starting to be aware of the 5th shot drop from mid court and performing with some consistency</li> <li>• starting to perform offensive lobs and lob coverage</li> <li>• starting to show they can sustain soft rallies at the non-volley zone line using both forehand and backhand and can move the soft shot cross court with some success</li> <li>• aware and starting to understand respect the X</li> <li>• learning more patience as in learning not to want to attack the ball too early</li> <li>• able to hit a medium paced forehand and backhand ground stroke with direction and deeper into the court with some consistency</li> <li>• demonstrates good hand-eye coordination</li> <li>• demonstrates good quickness forward and backward on the court and laterally at the non-volley zone line while working on proper footwork</li> <li>• demonstrates a punch shot/punch volley at the non-volley zone line with some consistency while hitting with pressure to mid court or to opponents' feet with some consistency</li> <li>• working to keep opponents deep in their court when possible</li> <li>• working on setting/pausing feet just before opponents hit the ball to be able to adjust easier to opponents' shot</li> <li>• working on setting/pausing feet before they hit the ball so their momentum does not cause a mishit</li> <li>• working on hitting all finishing shots down with more patience and consistency</li> <li>• starting to understand angles to the ball (both body and paddle)</li> <li>• starting to have better control of finishing shots to keep them well placed in the court</li> <li>• working on keeping the ball in play longer</li> <li>• maintains and continues to improve skills</li> </ul>

Level	Description
Level 3.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• possesses all previous skill level requirements</li> <li>• understands good form for shot type and performs consistently</li> <li>• minimizes unforced errors</li> <li>• shows good patience and focus to have better control on all shots</li> <li>• can move quickly forward and backwards in a safe and balanced manner and quickly laterally along the non-volley zone line (kitchen line).</li> <li>• understands when to approach the non-volley zone pending the quality of the 3rd shot.</li> <li>• knows and understands creeping most of the time</li> <li>• does not back off non-volley zone line unnecessarily</li> <li>• can place serve consistently, using depth and direction and starting to vary type of serve</li> <li>• performs a solid overhead smash with proper form and good directional control most times</li> <li>• has good control of finishing shots to keep them well placed in the court</li> <li>• performing a 3rd shot drop with consistency (non-attackable) or 3rd shot drive with good consistency/placement and understands the shot required to gain advantage to the net. Players are working as a team to approach the net</li> <li>• player aware of when to use a 5th shot drop from mid court and starting to perform with good consistency</li> <li>• uses lobs effectively with accuracy</li> <li>• knows how to switch for lob coverage and correct positioning on the court</li> <li>• sustaining longer soft rallies at the non-volley zone line using both forehand and backhand and can move the soft shot cross court with good success</li> <li>• keeps the ball in play longer and has good control on height and depth of the soft shot from anywhere on the court. Shows variation of pace and when to use it. Working on using soft shots (dinking) with a purpose to set up point</li> <li>• can sustain a short volley at the net with control</li> <li>• knows the difference between a hard game and a soft game and understanding when to use it</li> <li>• understands respect the X</li> <li>• understands proper court positioning</li> <li>• developing more patience as in learning not to want to attack the ball too early</li> <li>• able to hit a medium paced forehand and backhand ground stroke with direction. Player is placing the ball deeper into the court with good consistency</li> <li>• using drop volleys at appropriate time</li> <li>• demonstrates good hand-eye coordination</li> <li>• demonstrates a punch shot/punch volley at the non-volley zone line with consistency and hitting punch shots with pressure to mid or deep in the court or to opponents' feet with consistency</li> <li>• ground strokes have good direction, speed, depth, height</li> <li>• keeps opponents deep in their court when possible</li> <li>• setting/pausing feet just before opponents hit the ball to be able to adjust easier to opponents shot</li> <li>• setting/pausing feet before they hit the ball, so their momentum does not cause a mishit</li> <li>• placing finishing shots down with more patience and consistency</li> <li>• developed a good "step back" move while playing the ball at the NVZ, instead of always taking the ball on the "short hop". This includes developing a good recognition of when to "short hop" the ball vs when to use the "step back" technique</li> <li>• angles properly to the ball</li> <li>• developed an eye to not hit out balls</li> <li>• communicates with partner when necessary</li> <li>• has basic knowledge of stacking and knows when to use it</li> <li>• maintains and continues to improve skills</li> </ul>

Level	Description
Level 4.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• possesses all previous skill level requirements</li> <li>• plays more consistently in all phases of the game</li> <li>• hits a low number of unforced errors per game</li> <li>• anticipates opponents' shots resulting in good court position</li> <li>• has good footwork and moves laterally, backward, and forward with ease</li> <li>• controls and places serve and return of serves to best advantage</li> <li>• primarily plays offensively</li> <li>• has good consistency when performing the 3rd shot drop from the baseline during match play to gain advancement to the non-volley zone line. When driving a 3rd shot, can slow the ball effectively on the 5th shot drop, 7th shot drop etc. to gain advancement to the non-volley zone line. Also understands which shot is best required</li> <li>• moves effectively with partner to the non-volley zone. Consistently shows creeping</li> <li>• controls the play at the NVZ line by placing soft shots and by keeping their opponent back if they are at the baseline</li> <li>• works with partner to control the line</li> <li>• maintains patience in soft rallies</li> <li>• dinks with a purpose and uses strategy to set up a put away shot</li> <li>• performs a good "step back" shot while playing the ball at the NVZ, instead of always taking the ball on the "short hop". This includes a good recognition of when to "short hop" the ball vs when to use the "step back" technique</li> <li>• demonstrates more patience as in learning not to want to attack the ball too early</li> <li>• sustains a volley exchange at the net and uses directional control</li> <li>• uses a block volley effectively</li> <li>• able to hit winning volley when a ball is popped up</li> <li>• demonstrates an effective poach and understands when it is appropriate</li> <li>• able to change a fast-paced strategy to a slow one and vice versa</li> <li>• can consistently perform an overhead smash and places the shot for winners</li> <li>• demonstrates control on forehand groundstrokes (direction, depth, height, spin)</li> <li>• demonstrates control on backhand groundstrokes (direction, depth, height, spin)</li> <li>• able to adjust to differing ball speeds consistently</li> <li>• uses offensive lobs effectively and covers lobs effectively with proper court positioning</li> <li>• demonstrates a reset off attacked balls to slow the game down</li> <li>• demonstrates a good recognition of when to re-attack vs when to reset</li> <li>• maintains and continues to improve skills</li> </ul>

Level	Description
Level 4.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• possesses all previous skill level requirements</li> <li>• Player shows better overall consistency and strategy in all aspects of the game</li> </ul>

