

# IFP Rating Descriptions

Revised November 1, 2012

**The IFP Rating System has been created to help describe differences in the various skill levels.**

Rating	Rating Description
1.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• New and have only minimal knowledge of the game and the rules.</li></ul>
1.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Limited to some rallies.</li><li>• Learning how to serve.</li><li>• Developing a forehand.</li><li>• Fails to return easy balls frequently and occasionally misses the ball entirely.</li><li>• Played a few games and is learning the court lines, scoring, and some basic rules of the game.</li></ul>
2.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sustains a short rally with players of equal ability.</li><li>• Demonstrating the basic shot strokes – forehand, backhand, volley, overhead and the serve, but has obvious weaknesses in most strokes.</li><li>• Familiar with court positioning in doubles play.</li></ul>
2.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Makes longer lasting slow-paced rallies.</li><li>• Makes most easy volleys and uses some backhands, but needs more work on developing shot strokes.</li><li>• Beginning to approach the non-volley zone to hit volleys.</li><li>• Aware of the “soft game.”</li><li>• Knowledge of the rules has improved.</li><li>• Court coverage is weak but improving.</li></ul>
3.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• More consistent on the serve and service return and when returning medium-paced balls.</li><li>• 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.</li><li>• Beginning to attempt lobs and dinks with little success and doesn't fully understand when and why they should be used.</li></ul>
3.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Demonstrates improved stroke dependability with directional control on most medium-paced balls and some faster-paced balls.</li><li>• Demonstrates improved control when trying for direction, depth and power on their shots.</li><li>• Needs to develop variety with their shots.</li><li>• Exhibits some aggressive net play.</li><li>• Beginning to anticipate opponent's shots.</li><li>• Learning about the importance of strategy and teamwork in doubles.</li></ul>
4.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Consistent and dependable strokes, including directional control and depth on both forehand and backhand shots.</li><li>• Reliable serves, lobs, overheads, approach shots and volleys and can use spin shots with some success.</li><li>• Occasionally can force errors when serving.</li><li>• Rallies may be lost due to impatience.</li><li>• Uses the dink shot and drop shots to slow down or change the pace of the game.</li><li>• Demonstrates 3<sup>rd</sup> shot strategies – drop shots, lobs, and fast-paced ground strokes.</li><li>• Aggressive net play and teamwork in doubles is evident.</li><li>• Fully understands the rules of the game and can play by them.</li></ul>

4.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beginning to master the use of power and spin, can successfully execute all shots, can control the depth of their shots, and can handle pace.</li> <li>• Beginning to master the dink shots and drop shots and their importance to the game.</li> <li>• Beginning to master 3<sup>rd</sup> shot choices.</li> <li>• Displays sound footwork and moves well enough to get to the non-volley zone whenever required.</li> <li>• Understands strategy and can adjust style of play and game plan according to the opponent's strengths and weaknesses and court position.</li> <li>• Serves with power and accuracy and can also vary the speed and spin of the serve.</li> <li>• Understands the importance of "keeping the ball in play" and the effect of making errors.</li> <li>• Making good choices in shot selection.</li> <li>• Anticipates the opponent's shots resulting in good court positioning.</li> </ul>
5.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mastered all the skills – all shot types, touch, spin, serves, with control and can use them as weapons.</li> <li>• Excellent shot anticipation, extremely accurate shot placement and regularly hit winning shots.</li> <li>• Forces opponents into making errors by "keeping the ball in play."</li> <li>• Mastered the dink and drop shots.</li> <li>• Mastered the 3<sup>rd</sup> shot choices and strategies.</li> <li>• Uses soft shots, dinks and lobs to set up offensive situations.</li> <li>• Mastered pickleball strategies and can vary strategies and styles of play in competitive or tournament matches.</li> <li>• Dependable in stressful situations as in tournament match play.</li> <li>• Athletic ability, quickness, agility, and raw athleticism are also qualities that are sometimes what separates the top players from those near the top.</li> </ul>