



## Dear players,

We at IPC want to provide the best playing experience possible, especially during our popular Open Play sessions. To that end, we are announcing plans to align Open Play more closely with skill ratings. Starting Monday, Sept. 30, Competitive (3.5-3.99) and Advanced (4.0+) Open Play will only be available to players with verified skills ratings. Other levels and programs may adopt this requirement in the future.

## Why?

Requiring official skill levels for Open Play sessions will alleviate tension that can result between players with noticeable skill gaps and will prevent players from playing up or down a level when their appropriate level is not available. This transition will take some getting used to, but maintaining a consistent expectation during Open Play will improve the experience exponentially.

## How?

All players now have a "IPC Verified Rating" designation on their Court Reserve account. This rating can be verified using one of three methods. A reliable DUPR score is the easiest way to verify a player's skill level. Players can easily link their DUPR account to their Court Reserve account by following instructions that [can be found here](#). Additionally, players can take a screenshot of their [www.pickleballbrackets.com](http://www.pickleballbrackets.com) account with their name and doubles or mixed doubles rating and email that to [assessment@indianapolispickleballclub.com](mailto:assessment@indianapolispickleballclub.com). Lastly, players without these accounts can register for a Skills Assessment.

## Skills Assessments

During a Skills Assessment, IPC pros will conduct evaluations using the attached skills adapted from the USAPA skill definitions and skill assessment sheets. Staff will observe players and provide feedback on the skills they see. These assessments will be free in September to paid members who self-rate as 3.5+ or are interested in playing in 3.5+ Open Play. Players can get reassessed periodically if they feel their skill level has changed. We ask that only 3.5+ players register for Skills Assessments during September as we look to meet demand for those players before the requirement takes effect. More clinics will be held in the future. [Register for a Skills Assessment here](#).

We're excited to see how IPC Verified Ratings will improve Open Play. See you on the courts soon!

## Jaci Keller

Director of Pickleball  
Indianapolis Pickleball Club

# Skill Level Assessment



**INDIANAPOLIS**  
PICKLEBALL CLUB

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Self Rating: \_\_\_\_\_

Evaluator: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ IPC Rating: \_\_\_\_\_

**0** = Unable / Not observed; **1** = Attempted / Poor; **2** = Fair / Needs Work, **3** = Good / Consistent

<b>3.0 Skill</b>	0	1	2	3
Understands rules and can keep score				
Understands basic court positioning				
Able to hit a medium paced serve and get 7/10 in				
Able to hit forehand baseline shots and get 7/10 in				
Able to hit backhand baseline shots and get 7/10 in				
Able to hit forehand volley shots and get 7/10 in				
Able to hit backhand volley shots and get 7/10 in				
Able to avoid Non-Volley Zone (NVZ) foot faults				
<b>3.5 Skill</b>				
Able to place serves deep in the court				
Able to place return of serves deep into the court				
Moves quickly to NVZ when opportunity is there				
Knows difference b/w hard game and soft game; knows when to use each				
Sustains a short volley session at the net with placement and control				
Able to dink and sustains medium length rallies				
Able to control height/depth/pace of dink shot				
Able to return overheads (directional control, depth and placement)				
Comments:				

4.0 Skill	0	1	2	3
Consistently executes 3rd shot drop from the baseline to approach the net				
Able to change soft shots to power shots to create an advantage				
Able to sustain dink rally with control, height and depth of shot				
Understands which balls are attackable and those that are not in a dink rally				
Dinks with patience at the net to elicit a "put away" shot				
Able to block and return fast, hard volleys				
Aware of partners position on the court and moves as a team				
Accurate in placing lobs				
Has a limited number of unforced errors per game				
Identifies & formulates plan to attack opponents' weaknesses				
Able to put away overheads (directional control, depth and placement)				
Comments:				