



ORC PICKLEBALL PATHWAY

Use this guide to find your current level and see exactly what skills are needed to move up.

BEGINNER (Rating ≈ 1.5)

- **What It Looks Like:** You are new to the game; learning the rules, scoring, and how to keep a rally going.
- **Key Skills:** Can start points safely; learning consistent contact; understands “Two-Bounce Rule” with help.
- **To Reach Next Level:** Build a reliable serve and return; improve rally consistency from mid-court.
- **Best-Fit Sessions:** Learn to Play.

NOVICE (Rating ≈ 2.0)

- **What It Looks Like:** You can play full games; building consistency and basic positioning.
- **Key Skills:** Serve/return in play most of the time; can rally a few shots with “flat” strokes; understands basic doubles spacing.
- **To Reach Next Level:** Focus on serve/return depth and “Kitchen Discipline” (not stepping in the kitchen on volleys).
- **Best-Fit Sessions:** Drill & Play 2.0, Social Play.

DEVELOPING (Rating ≈ 2.5)

- **What It Looks Like:** More stable rallies; starting to use net play patterns and teamwork.
- **Key Skills:** Consistent serve/return; can dink a few balls with control; beginning to volley/block at the net instead of staying at the baseline.
- **To Reach Next Level:** Learn 3rd shot choices (drop vs. drive) and improve resets/blocks when under pressure.
- **Best-Fit Sessions:** Level Play 2.5, Drill & Play 2.5, Social Play.





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INTERMEDIATE (Rating ≈ 3.0)

- **What It Looks Like:** Intentional play; focuses on return targets and a more reliable net game.
- **Key Skills:** Returns with purpose (depth); understands dinking but still “pops up” many balls; hits primarily “flat” balls.
- **To Reach Next Level:** Focus on “Transition Defense” (resets under pace) and patience during kitchen dink exchanges.
- **Best-Fit Sessions:** Level Play 3.0, Drill & Play 3.0, Social Play, Ladder.

ADVANCED (Rating ≈ 3.5)

- **What It Looks Like:** Complete game; stronger defense and strategy execution under pressure.
- **Key Skills:** Reliable “transition game” (moves safely to the net); understands 3rd shot drop vs. drive; adds basic topspin or slice.
- **To Reach Next Level:** Master pattern-based play (setups/targeting) and stronger counters at the kitchen.
- **Best-Fit Sessions:** 3.5+ Clinics (Placement Required), Leagues, Ladder, Tournament Prep.

COMPETITIVE (Rating 4.0+)

- **What It Looks Like:** High pace and strategy; consistent execution and tactical awareness under pressure.
- **Key Skills:** Wins through patterns, not just errors; hits aggressive dinks at opponents’ feet; maintains technical form under high speed.
- **To Reach Next Level:** Master advanced scouting, tactical shifts, and rare unforced errors.
- **Best-Fit Sessions:** Competitive Level Play (Placement Required), Tournament Teams.





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HOW TO LEVEL UP

Professional coaching is the fastest way to move through this pathway. Whether you are a 2.0 or a 3.5, our pros help you master the skills members care about most, like **Kitchen Strategy, Resets, and Tactics**.

- **Instruction to All:** Lessons (Private, Semi-Private, or Group) can help you improve at any stage of your path.
- **Clinic Series:** We regularly add new multi-week series and Specific Skill Clinics (focusing on Resets, Speed-ups, Counters and more) to our schedule. Check the portal for the latest additions!

THE TOURNAMENT PATHWAY

1. **Get Evaluated:** Attend a Placement & Pathway Session to find your official ORC level.
2. **Build Skills:** Join a Drill & Play or some Clinics to master specific shots.
3. **Structured Play:** Join Leagues and Level Play to practice under pressure.
4. **Tournament Play:** Once you are consistent in Level Play, register for club round robins and sanctioned tournaments.

