

Pickleball Club article for Villager May 13, 2021 by Joyce Kludt

Pickleball Strategies

“Now that I know the basic skills of Pickleball, how can I improve my game?” the Novice asked her Intermediate level friend.

“Well, you are ready to practice Pickleball Strategies, just a few at a time. Here are some to get you started.”

1. Think of all the things that can go right when you keep the ball low. Think of all the things that can go wrong when you keep the ball too high.
2. You have to think FEET FIRST and BALL SECOND when standing at the Kitchen Line.
3. You eliminate ALL sideline unforced errors by hitting your shots up the middle.
4. The recipe for success on the court is often found in your opponent’s kitchen.
5. If you can’t outplay your opponents—outsmart them.
6. Serve DEEP to keep your opponent away from the kitchen longer and to make the return shot harder since it’s further away.
7. Don’t scoot up when you serve or before you return the serve. Remember the double bounce rule. Stay back and be patient!
8. Instead of using only one or two shots, try using varying shots : backhand, forehand, volleys, and dinks.
9. Just get it over the net! Instead of doing something fancy and risky, just dink it over.
10. Control your smashes. The harder you smash, the less control you have over the shot. Try to dial down the power in favor of more control. Even if it’s not your “super smash”, it’s probably good enough to win the point.

“Enjoy your games, my friend. Remember to SMILE and have fun!”