

THE DINK SHOT—Part 2

“What is the point of the dink shot?”, you might ask.

In Pickleball, dinking is about extending the game as long as possible so your opponent makes a mistake sooner than you do. Who knew procrastinating could be so useful? The point is to force your opponents to return awkward or difficult shots. The longer you extend the game, the more likely your opponent is to mess up. Also, the dink ruins your opponent’s ability to drive the shot back at you.

How to dink? You can use any stroke—side, underhand, overhand. The main thing to remember is finesse. Keep the hit soft.

VOLLEY OR GROUNDSTROKE?

Before you dink, you need to notice whether or not the dink is going to be a volley or a groundstroke. A volley is hit out of the air and a groundstroke is hit after it’s bounced.

- If you volley, it will usually bounce off the face of your paddle faster and travel further. A groundstroke will bounce and travel shorter. The faster the ball is traveling when it collides with your paddle, the faster it will bounce off—it’s physics. When the ball bounces off the ground, it loses a tremendous amount of speed, and it’s going to go much shorter. This is a crucial principle to understand in Pickleball.
- If you volley the dink, you have to be extra careful and soft. If you pop the ball up, your opponent will smash it and you’re most likely toast.
- If it’s a groundstroke, then you can hit it a bit harder.

As you play more and experience longer dinking rallies at the net, you’ll get used to how these speeds work!

Upcoming articles will deal with more dinking tactics.

HAPPY DINKING, VILLAGERS!

PS: If you aren't playing in the March 27 1:00 -3:00 tournament against Silver Creek, we hope you'll come out and support your fellow Villagers!